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Chief Executives Board
for Coordination

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Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-first session

(World Meteorological Organization headquarters, Geneva, 8 and 9 March 2016)

I. Introduction

1. The High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held its thirty-first session at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva on 8 and 9 March 2016. The agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present report.

2. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of WMO, welcomed the Committee to WMO headquarters. Noting the adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa) Pathway in 2014 and of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015, he observed that those intergovernmental outcomes were strongly interlinked. Focusing more specifically on the Paris Agreement, he reported that an increase in the global temperature of 1.5 degrees Celsius had almost been reached already and that an increase to 2.0 degrees Celsius was expected by 2030. Anticipating a surge in the number and intensity of natural disasters as a result of climate change, he underscored the need for an acceleration of mitigation and adaptation measures. The United Nations system was well positioned to support Member States in their efforts to combat climate change, and WMO, as an organization with specialized expertise in climate science, remained committed to playing an important role in that regard.

3. Achim Steiner, the Chair of the Committee, thanked Mr. Taalas on behalf of the Committee for his statement and for generously hosting the thirty-first session. He also welcomed Navid Hanif, Director for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the new Vice-Chair of the Committee.

4. Mr. Steiner continued by noting that 2015 had been a remarkable year, given that it had led to a convergence of international platforms and agreements that had culminated in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda as the overarching framework that, during the next 15 years, would serve as a guide for the international community towards lasting transformation. The Committee was meeting at a pivotal juncture,

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given that the international community was turning its attention towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. Over the past two years, the Committee had devoted considerable efforts to preparing the United Nations system for the transition to the new universal and integrated agenda by trying to anticipate the direction in which the system needed to evolve in order to remain relevant and to be able to address effectively the challenges that spanned development, human rights, humanitarian and peace and security concerns. Characterized by 17 interconnected and indivisible Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda demanded greater strategic and policy coherence on the part of the system in order to fulfil its role in supporting Member States in achieving the Goals.

6. Mr. Steiner observed that the Committee's particular strength lay in its role as a thought leader for the United Nations system and its ability to focus on ahead-of-the-curve global policy issues for broad, strategic and future-oriented reflections. Serving as the "think tank" for CEB, the Committee had a critical role to play in addressing major current and anticipated challenges for the United Nations system and in making lasting intellectual contributions, especially as the system worked to attain higher levels of integration and collaboration in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

7. At the current session, the Committee was asked to consider additional steps that the United Nations system could take, not only within the context of the Committee, but also in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group and the High-level Committee on Management, to enhance coherence and integration across the system. In line with the broad mandate of the High-level Committee on Programmes, the items on its agenda were thoroughly interlinked. By virtue of the fact that it was working across the full spectrum of the work of the United Nations and operating in a coherent and united manner, shared visions, standards and policies were rapidly becoming a prerequisite for ensuring effective support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Cross-pillar integration was, therefore, the central focus throughout the various agenda items of the present session, a challenge that the Committee was uniquely positioned to address from a policy and strategic coherence perspective.

8. The Committee gave a warm welcome to Mr. Hanif as its Vice-Chair, while paying tribute to his predecessor, Jane Stewart of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

II. Agenda item 1: urbanization and sustainable development

9. It was recalled that, at its twenty-seventh session, in March 2014, the Committee had established, under the leadership of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), an ad hoc, time-bound Working Group on a New Urban Agenda in order to prepare a coherent input of the United Nations system to the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which would be held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016. The Working Group had been tasked with developing a paper on urbanization and sustainable development as an input of the United Nations system to the New Urban Agenda and a proposal for a multi-stakeholder, issue-based partnership as a platform for contributing to the implementation of that agenda. In addition, the

Working Group had subsequently been requested to prepare a statement by CEB aimed at reaffirming the commitment of the system to the topic at Habitat III.

10. The Committee had before it, for consideration and approval, the final draft of the paper entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: a United Nations system input to a New Urban Agenda" and the draft CEB statement as the input of the United Nations system to Habitat III.

11. In introducing the submissions, Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, Principal Adviser, Policy and Strategic Planning, of the Office of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, stated that they had been the outcomes of extensive consultations through the Working Group and fully represented the joint thinking of the United Nations system on the issue of sustainable urbanization. The paper on urbanization and sustainable development was accompanied by an annex that included detailed information on individual and collective initiatives on the topic. Outlining 10 guiding principles on how urbanization could contribute to sustainable development and 10 levers of change by which the United Nations system could turn the principles into action, the paper proposed a vision for sustainable urbanization and concrete steps for its implementation, including through a proposed multi-stakeholder partnership. Once finalized, the paper was to be presented to the Secretary-General of Habitat III for transmission to its preparatory committee. Given that the process of intergovernmental consultation on preparing the outcome document was still ongoing, the paper would be an important substantive input to those deliberations.

12. Mr. Mutizwa-Mangiza, in asking the Committee to turn its attention to the draft CEB statement, pointed out that the current length and density of the draft had resulted from the richness of inputs that had been received from members of the Working Group. He pointed out that the draft statement was structured around the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Acknowledging that the text might still have room for further strengthening, he looked forward to feedback from the Committee.

13. Christine Auclair, Project Leader of the World Urban Campaign, complemented the presentation by Mr. Mutizwa-Mangiza by introducing the proposal of using the Campaign as a multi-stakeholder partnership to implement the shared vision of a New Urban Agenda, as outlined in the draft paper. Established in 2009 as a knowledge-sharing and advocacy network, the Campaign brought together 136 urban stakeholders and their networks in an effort to advance policies, messages and recommendations on sustainable urbanization. The Campaign, which was governed by a steering committee, consisted of UN-Habitat partner organizations and was coordinated by a secretariat hosted by UN-Habitat. It was active at the global level, for example, through the "The City We Need" initiative, and at the country level through national urban campaigns.

14. Ms. Auclair underscored that the World Urban Campaign, as an organization with a solid history of achievement, was well positioned to play a more catalytic role by becoming a hub for organizations of the United Nations system to build partnerships and forge strong alliances with non-State actors at the global and national levels. By using the Campaign as a host platform, those organizations would be able to take advantage of an existing and functioning instrument for teaming up with an extensive network of dedicated stakeholders. Interested organizations were invited to join as lead agencies for issue-based initiatives and partnerships. A United Nations-World Urban Campaign steering group could be

established and launched at the third session of the Habitat III preparatory committee.

15. The Committee welcomed the draft paper and the CEB statement, congratulating UN-Habitat on its leadership and the Working Group on its commitment and dedication to such an important and timely topic.

16. Members concurred with the assertion in the draft paper that urbanization was a megatrend that profoundly shaped human progress and destiny. Urbanization offered significant opportunities for economic growth, employment, social development and human well-being. At the same time, urbanization posed many challenges, including in the environmental, social, economic and political areas. Therefore, well-planned and well-managed urbanization was a central component of sustainable development and, especially, a prerequisite for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11, which called for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. Several members stressed that urbanization needed to be placed firmly within the broader normative agenda. Among the normative instruments mentioned as highly relevant were the human rights conventions, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. A norm-based approach to urbanization was seen as an important and unique contribution of the United Nations system.

17. A number of members highlighted the specific dimensions of urbanization that were viewed as particularly significant for the sustainable development of cities and human settlements. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) highlighted the importance of rural-urban linkages, stressing that sustainable urbanization processes depended on increasing investment in rural areas and in agriculture in order to provide food, other agricultural products and environmental services to growing urban populations. The underdevelopment of and underinvestment in rural areas were cited as among the underlying causes of urbanization. Displacement was likewise viewed as a contributing factor to urbanization. Viewed in that context, it was stressed that greater capacity was required at all levels for risk management and resilience-building among vulnerable populations.

18. Regarding the draft CEB statement, several participants highlighted the need for the text to emphasize more forcefully the positive aspects of urbanization by stressing the many economic and social opportunities that it offered. The statement should focus on a limited number of strategic issues that were central to sustainable urbanization and that could be translated into concrete actions in support of the New Urban Agenda. Overall, Committee members felt that the statement needed to be more explicit and convey more convincingly the readiness of the United Nations system to support Member States, including through programming, and to work with the relevant governing bodies.

19. Committee members identified specific areas and proposed specific language to strengthen the draft CEB statement prior to its approval. To fully harness the transformative power of urbanization and set it on a sustainable path, participants emphasized the role of children and young people; local authorities; good governance and the private sector; investment in the productive capacity of rural areas; culture, heritage and creativity; and science, technology and innovation.

While cities and urban centres provided many opportunities for productive employment, urban agglomerations and urban lifestyles also led to health risks, such as air pollution, drug use and road accidents, which would require an expansion of access to health care.

20. Some members used the opportunity to draw the Committee's attention to individual agency initiatives in support of sustainable urbanization, including joint work by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Economic Commission for Europe on smart sustainable cities and an action plan of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Post-War and Disaster Reconstruction and Rehabilitation to meet humanitarian challenges in urban areas. The potential contributions of refugees and displaced persons to urban lives and economies in the context of the humanitarian-development linkage were also noted. Several participants, including ITU, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, expressed their support for the proposal to use the World Urban Campaign as a multi-stakeholder platform for advancing the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and indicated an interest in leading issue-based initiatives in their respective area of expertise.

21. In his final remarks to the Committee, Mr. Mutizwa-Mangiza acknowledged the array of comments and suggestions offered by its members and elaborated on a number of points raised during the discussion. Members who were interested in being engaged in the World Urban Campaign were requested to contact UN-Habitat directly in order to advance the establishment of a United Nations-World Urban Campaign steering group.

22. In concluding the discussion, the Chair recognized the Committee's strong support for the draft paper, which outlined the complexities of the issue adroitly. Regarding the draft CEB statement, the Committee favoured a text that stated more explicitly the role of the United Nations system in supporting sustainable urbanization and that focused on a limited number of central strategic issues in a more succinct manner. In response to the comments and suggestions made by members, a revised draft statement, reflecting their essential proposals, as appropriate, was prepared and recirculated to the Committee as the final draft for approval. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked UN-Habitat for its leadership in bringing the initiative to a successful conclusion.

Conclusion

23. **The Committee approved the final draft of the paper entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: a United Nations system input to a New Urban Agenda", including the proposal to use the World Urban Campaign as a multi-stakeholder platform for contributing to the implementation of the agenda contained therein (see annex III to the present report), and the draft CEB statement on sustainable urbanization, as revised (see annex IV), for submission to CEB for endorsement and subsequent transmission to the Secretary-General of Habitat III as the input of the United Nations system.**

III. Agenda item 2: disaster risk reduction

24. Inviting the Committee to turn its attention to the agenda item on disaster risk reduction, the Chair welcomed Robert Glasser and congratulated him on his recent appointment as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Chair recalled that the Committee, at its thirtieth session, had approved the way forward proposed by its Senior Management Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, in which the Group had recommended the revision of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

25. The Committee had considered it important to revise the Plan of Action to align it with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted in March 2015, which specifically called upon the United Nations system to support its implementation in a coordinated manner and to ensure a strategic and programmatic linkage with the 2030 Agenda and other recently agreed international frameworks, most notably the Paris Agreement. Because that was to be the concluding task of the Senior Management Group, the Committee also requested that the revised Plan of Action include a proposal for a suitable future coordination arrangement.

26. Mr. Glasser, in his capacity as Chair of the Senior Management Group, introduced the revised Plan of Action by highlighting the huge toll that disasters exacted on human lives and development gains, in both developing and developed countries, which underscored the universal nature of disaster risk. The resulting humanitarian needs already exceeded the capacity of the international community. In view of the expected increases in the frequency and severity of disasters, there was an urgent need for greater investments and capacities in disaster risk reduction and management. The revised Plan of Action was a key pillar in positioning the United Nations system for such critical work.

27. Developed in a highly inclusive and participatory process, and aimed at building on the achievements and addressing the gaps and challenges experienced in the roll-out of the first Plan of Action, the revised Plan of Action included 11 results relating to the following three commitments: (a) to enhance coherence within the United Nations system with respect to incorporating risk into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; (b) to build the capacity of the United Nations system at the country level to deliver high-quality, coordinated support on disaster risk reduction; and (c) to maintain disaster risk reduction as a high strategic priority within the entities of the United Nations system. With reference to the costs of the roll-out of the Plan of Action, for which he offered an estimate of $3.3 million annually, Mr. Glasser underscored that the amount was to be considered not an optional additional expenditure but an indispensable investment. He also noted that the net cost was likely to be much lower, in view of the benefits of coordinated action on reducing disaster risk and the opportunities for synergies with other work streams, such as climate change.

28. In terms of monitoring and reviewing progress in the implementation of the revised Plan of Action, a "light-touch" arrangement was proposed. A group consisting of key stakeholders at the Assistant Secretary-General level would be convened annually by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction to oversee strategic and policy aspects of the operationalization of the Plan of Action, review progress and address gaps and ensure linkages and coherence with other processes relating to the implementation

of the 2030 Agenda. Mr. Glasser also informed the Committee that the Plan of Action would be brought to the attention of the United Nations Development Group in order to encourage its inclusion in its relevant workstreams and for broad dissemination among resident coordinators and regional teams.

29. In the ensuing discussion, the Committee expressed broad support for the revised Plan of Action. Members agreed that disaster risk reduction and management were at the core of sustainable development and indispensable for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Echoing the overarching objectives of the draft Plan of Action, they underscored the importance of risk-informed decision-making in maximizing resilience and ensuring the sustainability of development investments. The importance of integrating a risk perspective into development was also reflected in the common approach of the United Nations Development Group for effective and coherent support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, such as the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support strategy.

30. The Committee also expressed appreciation for the focus on integration contained in the draft Plan of Action. In view of the tremendous present and future humanitarian challenges, the urgent need to increase resilience and prevent disasters and crises through enhanced coherence and integration, especially between humanitarian and development operations, was underscored. The upcoming World Humanitarian Summit was mentioned as an important opportunity to establish linkages between disaster risk reduction, humanitarian crises and sustainable development. Members also welcomed the emphasis on close linkages with action on climate change by the United Nations system and recommended a stronger focus on the linkages with its work on urban areas.

31. Given the scale of the current disaster risk and its likely increase owing to climate change, demographic change and other factors, the Committee considered it important that the Plan of Action be sufficiently ambitious. Members recommended that more emphasis be placed on the normative role of the United Nations system in promoting ambitious and inclusive action to enhance resilience. The importance of increased investments in disaster risk reduction was also highlighted, especially in recognition of the clear correlation between vulnerability to disasters, poverty, discrimination, inequality and a lack of access to basic services and development opportunities. In that context, members suggested that the Plan of Action present the need for disaggregated data, taking into account the socio-economic drivers of vulnerability and the importance of sharing data and information within the United Nations system.

32. The Committee emphasized that the ultimate objective of the Plan of Action was to foster the coherent support of the United Nations system for countries in translating global agreements into concrete action and outcomes. The proposed focus of the Plan of Action on building capacity to integrate disaster risk reduction into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks was welcomed as relevant and appropriate in that regard. At the same time, government capacity needed to be strengthened in terms of assessing current and future risks, as well as the cost of disasters, informing the allocation of resources and integrating disaster risk reduction into national development and sectoral strategies. In that context, the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative was mentioned as a relevant effort aimed at enabling the United Nations system to support Governments in developing national capacities for disaster risk reduction.

33. In terms of the scope of the revised Plan of Action, members highlighted institutional resilience to ensure effective response and rehabilitation in the aftermath of disasters as an area requiring particular attention. The Committee also underscored the importance of resilience and the capacity to swiftly recover economically and socially after crises, noting the importance of closer collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions. Referring to the multi-hazard approach embedded in the Sendai Framework, the consideration of biological hazards and the risk of cyberdisasters was also suggested.

34. Several Committee members stressed the importance of monitoring the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action and of having clear baselines against which to measure the support of the United Nations system for Member States in implementing the Sendai Framework and other commitments. Doing so was also critical for communicating the benefits and savings resulting from investments in disaster risk reduction and resilience-building. The evolving results-based analytical framework, which accompanied the Plan of Action, was welcomed in that regard.

35. In summarizing the discussion, the Chair noted strong support for the revised Plan of Action, which would serve as an "insurance policy" for the Sustainable Development Goals and as guidance for the entities of the United Nations system in incorporating disaster risk reduction into all aspects of their work. He underscored the importance of baselines and milestones for measuring the progress made in that regard and noted the Committee's appreciation of the role of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in coordinating the efforts of the United Nations system on disaster risk reduction, as well as in monitoring the progress made in implementing the revised Plan of Action.

36. In conclusion, the Committee agreed to approve the revised United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience for submission to CEB for endorsement. Recognizing the rich substance in the discussion and its high relevance to future efforts to implement the revised Plan of Action, the Committee also agreed to request the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to prepare a brief summary of key substantive points to accompany the revised Plan as an integral part of the submission to CEB. The Chair thanked the Senior Management Group for its work during the past four years and congratulated its members on the successful completion of its term and mandate.

Conclusion

37. **The Committee concluded the following:**

(a) **The Committee approved the draft of the revised United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (see annex V to the present report) for endorsement by CEB at its first regular session of 2016. The Committee also requested the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction to prepare an introductory note, summarizing key substantive points from the discussion, to accompany the Plan of Action;**

(b) **With the successful delivery of that concluding task, the Committee completed the term and mandate of its Senior Management Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.**

IV. Agenda item 3: climate change

38. Inviting the Committee to turn its attention to the agenda item on climate change, the Chair recalled that the Committee, at its thirtieth session, had discussed a report presented by its Working Group on Climate Change on the achievements and gaps in coordination by the United Nations system in addressing climate change and the options for the way forward on climate action by the United Nations system. While noting that the Committee had, overall, supported the need for a system-wide approach to coordinated climate action, he added that such an approach might not necessarily entail a dedicated coordination function.

39. The Committee had, on the one hand, underscored the urgent need for the United Nations system to deliver on coordinated climate action; on the other, it had recognized that the development of a comprehensive strategy was beyond the mandate and scope of its Working Group. Accordingly, the Committee had recommended a two-phased approach. As a first step, it had requested the Working Group to develop a proposal for enhancing system-wide policy and high-level programmatic coherence and coordination on climate change, which was to be the concluding task of the Working Group. As a second step, the Committee had asked the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, at a suitably senior level, to lead the preparation of a proposed road map towards a possible comprehensive strategy.

40. The Committee had before it, for approval, the proposal by its Working Group for the first part of the strategy. It consisted of a concise yet comprehensive set of shared, system-wide principles that would serve as the foundation for future efforts by the United Nations system to deliver coordinated support to Member States in addressing climate change in the context of sustainable development. In an effort to inform considerations with regard to a possible comprehensive strategy, the Working Group also presented a discussion paper, proposing strategic priorities for action through which the common principles could be operationalized.

41. Elena Manaenkova, Assistant Secretary-General of WMO, in her capacity as the Chair of the Working Group, introduced the draft principles and the discussion paper. Ms. Manaenkova reminded the Committee of the historic commitment by Member States to combat climate change emanating from the Paris Agreement, which had established a clear link between climate change and nearly every aspect of sustainable development. The Agreement allowed each entity of the United Nations system to look through the prism of its own mandate and identify its unique contribution to addressing the major challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and limiting the increase in the global temperature to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

42. With the conclusion of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the focus had shifted from aspirations to actions, and coordinated support by the United Nations system was needed more than ever to ensure the coherent implementation of the Paris Agreement and the broader 2030 Agenda. Thanking the nearly 30 entities of the system that had been engaged in drafting the principles and the priorities for action, as well as the task team Co-Chairs, Jo Scheuer of UNDP, Daniel Schensul of the United Nations Population Fund and Pradeep Monga of UNIDO, for their

leadership, Ms. Manaenkova highlighted some of the key issues addressed in both documents.

43. The common principles emphasized the importance of an integrated approach to sustainable development aimed at fostering synergies and co-benefits within and across the agreements constituting the 2030 Agenda. Climate action should be supportive and part of their implementation, thereby driving sustainable development. Other proposed principles included ensuring that all climate action of the United Nations system included sustainable development for all; basing such action by the United Nations system on the best climate science, data and knowledge; and focusing joint action by the United Nations system on areas that added the most value.

44. Turning to the discussion paper, Ms. Manaenkova introduced the nine proposed principles as an input, or a bridge, to the preparation of a proposed road map towards a possible comprehensive system-wide strategy. She underlined that both the principles and the discussion paper had been the focus of thorough consultation with the senior officials, representing UNDP, UNEP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the level of Assistant Secretary-General or equivalent, tasked with leading the second-phase effort, following the Committee's recommendation to ensure coordination and alignment between the two phases.

45. The paper raised a number of questions for the Committee to reflect on, including how the United Nations system could: (a) strengthen policy, programmatic and operational linkages within its support for climate action; (b) make best use of ongoing processes and implementation streams to mainstream climate action and develop integrated, joint approaches; (c) improve its ability to integrate climate-related risk into its operations, programming, guidance and support for Member States; (d) measure and demonstrate the impact of integrated actions that deliver multiple benefits; and (e) ensure accountability for realizing the common core principles.

46. The Chair of the Committee thanked Ms. Manaenkova for her outstanding leadership and commitment to bringing the United Nations system together around climate action. Before opening the discussion, he invited Magdy Martínez-Solimán of UNDP, on behalf of the senior officials leading the second-phase effort, to share his views on the two documents. Mr. Martínez-Solimán observed that both the principles and the priorities for action reflected ambition and commitment within the United Nations system, in line with the spirit of the Paris Agreement. He welcomed the underlying notion of climate action as both an end in itself and a driver of sustainable development. The effort of the senior officials to draft a proposed road map for a possible comprehensive strategy would build on the work of the Working Group, which would also address questions relating to system-wide coordination.

47. In the ensuing discussion, Committee members expressed strong support for the draft common core principles and agreed broadly with the proposed priority actions. In particular, the Committee welcomed the reference to overarching norms and values, as well as scientific evidence, as the basis for all climate action by the United Nations system; the commitment to support ambitious climate action aimed at limiting the increase in the global temperature to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius; and the emphasis on integrating climate action into and across the implementation of the package of agreements constituting the 2030 Agenda. Members viewed the principles as useful in guiding the entities of the system in the

development and adjustment of their individual climate strategies. Suggestions for further refining the principles included a reference to the gender-related commitments included in the Paris Agreement.

48. With regard to the proposed priorities for action, the Committee made a number of observations and recommendations. In order to translate the commitment to an integrated approach into concrete actions, more emphasis needed to be placed on creating synergies across the various work streams of the 2030 Agenda. Integrated risk management and the development of national adaptation plans were mentioned as important vehicles for promoting a cross-sectoral, multiple-benefit approach, supported by joint action by the United Nations system. Integrated risk management was also considered critical to shaping the adaptation agenda, an area in which the leadership and assistance of the United Nations system were urgently needed.

49. On the question of coordination by the United Nations system, the Committee expressed a strong preference for making better and more effective use of existing coordination mechanisms, as opposed to creating a new and burdensome structure. At the same time, the value of providing a platform for knowledge and information exchange on climate change among the entities of the system was underscored, along with the need for innovative models for collaboration between the system and other stakeholders.

50. Several Committee members addressed the issue of accountability. While some noted the benefit of periodic reporting by the entities of the United Nations system to CEB on their commitments under the common core principles and a possible comprehensive strategy, others cautioned against overburdening the system with duplicative reporting processes. Members concurred that accountability of the system was required at multiple levels, including, first and foremost, to the people and the Governments it served, measured by, among other things, how effectively it supported the development of nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans. The system also needed to account for its total programmatic expenditure in the area of the environment, as well as its own environmental footprint. In that context, members expressed appreciation that the proposed common core principles provided a shared framework for the entities of the system to hold one another accountable.

51. Members pointed out that the more effective sharing of climate and risk data among agencies was a prerequisite for credibility, transparency, accountability and the measurement of progress. The crucial role of the United Nations system as a provider of climate and risk data in order to guide the actions and investments of Member States and other stakeholders and to support risk-informed implementation of the 2030 Agenda was also underscored. Integrated risk analysis, undertaken in partnership with the private sector and other actors, was considered a particularly important area of the work of the system in that regard. Such analysis would not only facilitate the integration of climate risk into the programmes and operations of the system, but also contribute to a better understanding of how climate risks related to, amplified or triggered other risks. Climate-induced displacement was noted as a highly topical example in that context.

52. Climate finance was highlighted as an area of importance to provide incentive for joint action. In the light of the need for greater coherence and coordination in that area, attention was drawn to an example in which financial and operational

entities of the United Nations system, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank Group and UNDP, had partnered with more scientifically and normatively oriented agencies such as WMO and UNEP to ensure that all climate action was informed by the best-available climate science, with a view to maximizing the effectiveness of limited resources.

53. The Committee also discussed the role of the private sector in climate action. Implementing the Paris Agreement had required the mobilization of people and financial resources, most of which needed to come from private sector investments. Participants pointed out that the United Nations system should provide more effective normative guidance to the private sector; focus more on multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as those developed under the Lima-Paris Action Agenda; and use committed companies more effectively as drivers for action. At the same time, the role and responsibility of the private sector, as distinct from that of civil society and local communities, and the need to hold the private sector accountable for its impact on sustainable development, needed to be more clearly articulated. In that regard, the need for the United Nations system to focus on the empowerment of, and accountability to, vulnerable people who were on the front line of the impacts of climate change in rural and urban areas was also noted.

54. Expressing appreciation for the thoughtful comments by Committee members, the Chair underscored the need for accelerated mitigation and adaptation efforts and referred to the key responsibility of national meteorological and hydrological services in supporting risk-informed implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He also noted the importance of enhanced coherence on climate action within the United Nations system, opining that the establishment of a dedicated entity, such as a "UN-Climate" arrangement, might be considered as a possible option.

55. Summarizing the discussion, the Chair noted the strong support for endorsing the proposed common core principles against which the organizations of the United Nations system could hold one another accountable. A clear message resonating from the discussion was the need to swiftly transition from negotiating to implementing climate action. Some of the challenges with respect to realizing such a transition would need to be addressed by the second-phase effort relating to a possible comprehensive strategy. Those challenges included fostering integrated climate action that delivered multiple benefits across the 2030 Agenda; maximizing the value of system-wide climate action; identifying appropriate networks, platforms or mechanisms to ensure coherence, as needed; and considering the possible roles, if any, of CEB and its committees. In that regard, the Chair suggested a comparison of the costs and benefits of coordinated climate action, as opposed to what he referred to as "whole-of-United Nations system climate action", which would put the onus on every entity to review its plans and articulate a response to climate change, in line with its mandate.

56. In conclusion, the Committee agreed to approve the common core principles, with the suggested changes, for submission to CEB for endorsement. Furthermore, the Committee, in taking note of the discussion paper, requested the senior officials representing UNDP, UNEP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to take into account the discussions in their effort to prepare a proposed road map towards a possible comprehensive strategy. The Chair thanked the Working Group on Climate Change for its work over many years and congratulated its members on the successful completion of its term and mandate.

Conclusion

57. The Committee concluded the following:

(a) The Committee approved the draft common core principles for a United Nations system-wide approach to climate action, subject to the incorporation, as appropriate, of comments made during its thirty-first session, for endorsement by CEB at its first regular session of 2016 (see annex VI to the present report);

(b) With the successful delivery of that concluding task, the Committee completed the term and mandate of its Working Group on Climate Change;

(c) The Committee endorsed, in principle, the suggested priorities for coordinated action on climate by the United Nations system and requested that they be appropriately taken into account in the second-phase effort to develop, under the leadership of the senior officials representing UNDP, UNEP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, a proposed road map for a possible comprehensive strategy, for consideration by the Committee at a future session.

V. Agenda item 4: World Humanitarian Summit

58. In opening the discussion on the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, the Chair reminded the Committee of the communication dated 5 January 2016 from the Secretary-General in which he had encouraged CEB members to attend the Summit and had informed them about the intention to discuss at the forthcoming CEB meeting the collective efforts of the United Nations system in support of the preparation of the Summit. The Chair noted that the Committee had been tasked with supporting the CEB discussion and invited the Committee to consider how the United Nations system could best support the preparations for and the follow-up to the Summit from the perspective of promoting strategic and policy coherence.

59. In introducing the briefing paper presented to the Committee, Gwi-Yeop Son, Director of Corporate Programmes of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, pointed to the current situation in which 125 million people were affected by crises. Ms. Son outlined the goals for organizing the Summit, which were: to place the affected people at the centre of decision-making by reinspiring and reinvigorating commitment to humanity; to generate commitments to enhanced preparation for and response to crisis and resilience; and to foster innovation and knowledge-sharing. The Summit would be a multi-stakeholder process.

60. Ms. Son brought to the attention of the Committee the recently issued report of the High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, entitled "Too important to fail: addressing the humanitarian financing gap", and the report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit, entitled "One humanity: shared responsibility" (A/70/709). In its report, the High-level Panel, which was Co-Chaired by Kristalina Georgieva and Sultan Nazrin Shah, called for political will to bring about a reduction in humanitarian needs, the diversification of the donor base and improvements in efficiency between the United Nations system and donors. The report of the Secretary-General looked at the urgent need to place humanity at the centre of individual and collective decision-making and included, as an annex, an

Agenda for Humanity that outlined the key actions and strategic shifts necessary in order to deliver on the five core responsibilities identified in the report.

61. Outlining the structure of the Summit, Ms. Son described the high-level segment, the announcement plenary, the high-level leaders' round tables, the special sessions, the side events and the innovation marketplace and exhibition fair. Expected key outcomes of the Summit included a summary by the Chair capturing the main issues and recommendations, a commitment to action document to reflect a set of concrete actions and commitments made by stakeholders and a report of the Secretary-General on outcomes in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/106.

62. Ms. Son, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General, emphasized the central role of the Committee and CEB in leading the system to move beyond institutional silos and work in an integrated and coherent manner, thereby supporting national and local capacities. In support of the Summit, Committee members were encouraged to advocate for the Agenda for Humanity, to mobilize key stakeholders for the Summit and to help to implement and monitor the outcomes.

63. The Committee thanked the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for the briefing paper and expressed its gratitude for its leadership in the preparatory process with respect to the Summit. In the light of the dire humanitarian situation across the world, including, in particular, the refugee crises in the Middle East, the Summit enjoyed the unanimous and strong support of the Committee, which was encouraged by the spirit and the ambition reflected in the report of the Secretary-General and noted that the mobilization for the Summit within the United Nations system was high. Many members put forward their involvement in preparations for the Summit, pledged their commitment to the Agenda for Humanity and noted their intention to promote the Summit and participate in it at a high level.

64. Noting that the gap between available resources and humanitarian need was at its highest level in history, the Committee recognized the formidable challenges that humanitarian financing posed to the international community. It agreed that a solution aimed at tightening the existing gap was to advance long-term work on the root causes of humanitarian situations, alongside the immediate interventions in crisis situations. Several Committee members, in referring to the worrisome trend of moving funding away from development to cover humanitarian expenses, cautioned that doing so could undermine sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda and the longer-term reduction of humanitarian needs.

65. The Committee agreed that business as usual was not an option and that transformational change was needed for the way in which the humanitarian aid system worked. Committee members perceived the Summit as being intertwined with other past and future processes, including the agreements reached in 2015, such as the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement, as well as processes forthcoming in 2016, such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the high-level plenary meeting on addressing large numbers of refugees and migrants and Habitat III. While noting the importance of reflecting the interlinkage of humanitarian and development issues in the next resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, it was suggested that, for that to

happen, such an interlinkage would need to be discussed at the political level and that the Summit could provide a platform for such discussions.

66. The Committee recognized the interconnectedness of those processes and agreed that there was a consequential need for the United Nations system to move beyond traditional silos and to work across mandates, sectors and institutional boundaries in order to address those global challenges. The importance of resolving the divide between humanitarian and development work was particularly highlighted by some Committee members in that regard, while others noted that such integration had already been occurring within their agencies. Still others stressed that peace and security and human rights should also be part of such integration efforts, with some pointing out the importance of joint planning as well as joint assessments of needs and risk.

67. While some members expressed concern that the expected outcomes of the Summit might not be concrete enough to enable stakeholders to take ownership of them in its wake, others praised the high-minded objectives set for the Summit. A number of members also saw the benefit of the Summit as serving as an internal rallying point for the United Nations system.

68. In closing the discussion, the Chair noted the unreserved support of the Committee for the Summit. While acknowledging that the Committee's discussion had reinforced some aspects already on the agenda, he, in the light of the little time remaining in the preparation process, summarized the Committee's sentiment that there did not appear to be much of substantive value that the Committee could add at such a late juncture. Nevertheless, the Chair, in recognizing the important role that CEB and the Committee could play in the wake of the Summit, recommended that the Committee review the concrete outcomes of the Summit and consider opportunities, if any, to link them with the Committee's work to promote integration within the United Nations system.

Conclusion

69. **The Committee expressed its unequivocal support for the World Humanitarian Summit. It agreed to consider, at a future session, the specific outcomes of the Summit and their possible linkage with the Committee's work relating to cross-pillar integration.**

VI. Agenda item 5: equality and non-discrimination at the heart of sustainable development

70. The Chair recalled that the Committee, at its thirtieth session, had approved the position paper entitled "Equality and non-discrimination at the heart of sustainable development: towards a United Nations system-wide shared framework for addressing inequalities and discrimination in implementation of the 2030 Agenda". The Committee had also requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with support from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to lead the process of preparing a draft CEB policy statement and to develop, in consultation with others, proposed options for possible approaches or instruments to further advance that work, both for consideration by the Committee at its thirty-first session.

The Chair acknowledged the effort subsequently undertaken by the Committee's Consultative Group on Equality and Non-Discrimination in Sustainable Development, led by OHCHR and UN-Women, to produce the two requested outputs.

71. In his framing remarks, the Chair observed that there was inherent inequity in the economic system, but that progress had been made in recognizing and addressing that challenge. Indeed, the 2030 Agenda provided a new and different intergovernmental framework for the efforts of the United Nations system to reduce inequalities. The Chair, in recognizing that it would not be easy to translate principle and aspiration into guidance and operations, noted that the Committee had attached great importance to that work. He invited the Committee to consider how to proceed in such a way as to add substance, not process.

72. The co-leads of the Consultative Group, Moez Doraid, Director of the Coordination Division of UN-Women, and Craig Mokhiber, Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch of OHCHR, were invited to present the two documents, prepared through inter-agency consultations, for consideration by the Committee.

73. Mr. Doraid introduced the draft statement entitled "CEB policy directive: putting the imperative to combat inequalities and discrimination at the forefront of United Nations efforts to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The comprehensive yet succinct text had been developed by the Consultative Group as a CEB statement of commitment directed at the entities of the United Nations system.

74. The statement acknowledged that the reduction of inequalities was essential for development to be sustainable and that the 2030 Agenda had, at its heart, a commitment to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first. It affirmed the commitment of the United Nations system, at the highest level, to pursue that vision and to promote and encourage respect for human rights, including the principle of equality and non-discrimination for all people. It recognized that the need to address inequalities was reflected across the entire 2030 Agenda and did not apply only to Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 10. The statement committed CEB member organizations to integrating the imperative to address inequalities and discrimination in their own strategies and planning frameworks. It welcomed the initiative to develop a system-wide, coordinated, coherent and integrated shared framework for action on combating inequalities and discrimination. It also alluded to the importance of close linkage and synergy between the respective roles and responsibilities of the Committee and the United Nations Development Group for translating that vision into concrete action and impact. The shared framework was expected to elaborate on how the entities of the United Nations system could move forward collectively and individually towards realizing the shared vision.

75. Mr. Mokhiber introduced the discussion note on a proposed shared framework for action on combating inequalities and discrimination in United Nations support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He noted that this was a significant moment of convergence whereby inter-governmental processes had produced a historic agenda for equality, focusing on reducing inequalities and discrimination in an integrated way, including through the commitment to leave no one behind, as well as the goals and targets and the requirement of the broader disaggregation of data. This paradigm shift had emanated from Member States themselves and leveraged existing international norms and standards. It was now the moment to move from that

political convergence to coherence and action with regard to inequalities. United Nations system entities had long been working to conquer inequalities and discrimination; now, the Committee was asked to consider a first-ever shared framework for the United Nations system to collect and reflect the array of relevant policies, programmes and tools and, thus, to better equip the system to efficiently address the challenges of inequality and discrimination across the breadth of its work.

76. With respect to the proposed outline for the framework, it was recalled that parts I to IV would draw content from the Committee's position paper that it had approved at its thirtieth session and that CEB had subsequently endorsed in November 2015. New material would be developed for parts V to VII, including material documenting practical elements of a shared framework for action to ensure a more coordinated, coherent, integrated and effective approach to combating inequalities. The Committee was asked to identify content that could, together, constitute an overarching United Nations approach to reversing inequalities. Specifically, Mr. Mokhiber invited organizations to identify flagship programmes, policy prescriptions and measures relevant to combating inequalities and discrimination, as well as existing and planned tools and methodologies for charting and monitoring inequalities and discrimination that could be useful for measuring progress. He also encouraged members to consider how the inequality agenda could be integrated into the strategic frameworks of individual entities, policy guidance and plans of action.

77. The Committee welcomed the draft statement, recognizing the centrality to the 2030 Agenda of the imperative of combating inequalities and discrimination and acknowledging the variety of work already under way within the United Nations system to address inequalities. It was suggested and subsequently agreed that it should more appropriately be called a statement of commitment instead of a policy directive. The suggestion to insert a reference to the respective mandates of the organizations of the United Nations system was supported. The language would also be reviewed in order to clarify the sequencing of the adoption of the statement and the approval of the shared policy framework. Furthermore, it was suggested that "the stateless" and "minorities" be added to the list of the most vulnerable and marginalized. Members observed that, in order to succeed in leaving no one behind, the focus would also need to be on the "last mile".

78. The Committee also supported the proposal to proceed with developing the shared framework. In addition to the observation made by Member States in the context of the Economic and Social Council Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system that there was no single United Nations entity responsible for combating inequalities, the framework was seen as a useful means of coordinating system-wide work and enhancing coherence without creating a new entity.

79. Mindful of the coordination and reporting burden of country teams, the Committee expressed appreciation for the lighter approach focusing on coherence, compared with the original proposal to develop a system-wide action plan. It was stressed that the an initiative should not duplicate work carried out in existing inter-agency mechanisms, such as the Programme Working Group and the Human Rights Working Group of the United Nations Development Group. However, the utility of such mechanisms in helping to operationalize the shared framework was highlighted. The representative of the Development Operations Coordination Office reported that the United Nations Development Group had been in the midst of

developing tools, methodologies and guidance to aid country teams in providing support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He noted that care would be taken to avoid duplication with the Committee's policy-level work on inequalities and to ensure that efforts to operationalize the framework at the country level would be streamlined so as to be manageable for resident coordinators. There would also be a need to consider how to operationalize the framework in middle-income countries and developed countries, given that the 2030 Agenda was universally applicable.

80. In order to facilitate field-level dissemination, the suggestion was made that on-site support be offered for pilot initiatives to reduce inequalities in a limited number of countries and, on the basis of those experiences, that a shortlist of initiatives be developed that could be included in other United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. The point was made that the framework should not be limited to having an impact at the country level, but should also include policies, programmes and tools to reduce inequalities between countries, including by focusing on subjects such as trade, migration and finance. It was stressed that the framework should transcend the humanitarian-development divide. To develop joint and coordinated activities, it was suggested that the co-leads convene subject-specific workshops with interested organizations with the aim of developing system-wide programmes and activities for which to raise funds jointly.

81. Clarification was sought on section VII of the draft statement with respect to what was meant by "indicators", specifically, whether it was related to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. A question was raised as to how the United Nations system could best support building the capacity of countries to develop reporting systems, including by generating disaggregated data. It was also acknowledged that the system needed to better leverage the data revolution. In addition, there was a query as to whether there was an intent to focus on a limited number of areas in the framework. The speaker expressed the view that trying to comprehensively catalogue all relevant policies, tools and activities might have limited value. On that point, others reiterated that the principal focus would be on the measures relating to goals and targets already captured in the 2030 Agenda.

82. In the course of the discussion, various member organizations identified a number of activities and tools that could be reflected in the framework. The representative of IFAD expressed interest in contributing in the area of economic empowerment in order to address rural/urban inequalities and inequalities within rural societies, such as those relating to gender or ethnicity, noting the relevant expertise of IFAD relating to tools, policy and programmatic approaches to promoting more equal access to economic assets, including land, and finance; building institutional capacity to reduce rural/urban gaps in access to services and infrastructure; and inclusive market access for smallholder farmers and rural micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.

83. The representative of UNEP outlined a number of activities that it had been pursuing to develop its strategic framework in terms of economic empowerment and to help its staff and partners to become more familiar with human rights and inequalities agendas and better engage with United Nations country teams on those issues; to expand evidence on linkages between the environment and human rights; to proactively build the knowledge base and make it available to the United Nations system; and to strengthen the accountability of its internal environmental, social and economic sustainability framework. She indicated that UNEP wished to form

partnerships with organizations of the United Nations system that had developed social data sets in order to achieve its aim of systematically linking its environmental assessments with disaggregated data.

84. Observing that the framework would benefit from the inclusion of more tools to address inequalities in science, technology and innovation, ITU offered to provide input on the basis of its efforts to promote digital inclusion. UN-Habitat expressed interest in contributing on the basis of its experiences in filling the gap between policy and action with its Global Land Tool Network. IMF highlighted pilot initiatives on gender empowerment and inequalities to foster equity, inclusion and social and environmental sustainability. It also offered to share new tools for analysing equity issues, such as a model to quantify the macroeconomic and distributional impact of policy reforms; an analysis of subsidy reform and fiscal reform; a study of financial stability and the distributional consequences of financial sector deepening and inclusion reforms; and a review of gender-responsive budgeting.

85. In terms of next steps, the co-leads encouraged all entities to provide written inputs to the framework and to designate a representative to join the Consultative Group if they were not already participating. Given that several entities had been undergoing a midterm review of their strategic frameworks and plans, the hope was also expressed that elements relating to inequalities inspired by the CEB statement of commitment could already be reflected in the framework. The co-leads stressed their intent to ensure smooth coordination and cooperation between the Committee and the United Nations Development Group, underscoring that the Committee's framework would be focused on policy and programmatic approaches and that the United Nations Development Group would serve as the interface between the global framework and the United Nations country teams.

86. It was agreed that the statement of commitment, as slightly revised on the basis of the feedback provided during the discussion, would be forwarded to CEB for endorsement. The Committee also endorsed the proposal to proceed with developing the shared framework, a draft of which would be considered by the Committee at its next session. The Chair emphasized the importance of using clear terminology and reiterated that the goal of this work was not to define a prescriptive operational agenda for all entities, but rather to inspire a commitment to combating inequalities and discrimination in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and inform a practical framework that could apply to various sectoral areas and contexts and potentially generate more coherent, integrated and joint efforts among the organizations of the United Nations system.

Conclusion

87. **The Committee approved the revised draft CEB statement of commitment on inequalities (see annex VII to the present report), for submission to CEB for endorsement. It also endorsed the proposal to develop a shared framework for action on combating inequalities and discrimination in United Nations support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and requested OHCHR and UN-Women to lead the consultative process of preparing the draft framework, for consideration by the Committee at its thirty-second session.**

VII. Agenda item 6: promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies and preventing conflict

88. The Chair opened the discussion on promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies and preventing conflict, recalling that the Committee, at its thirtieth session, had held an in-depth discussion on that topic. During the discussion, the Committee had focused on the importance of a risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and prevention-centred approach and underscored the need for a system-wide engagement transcending the various pillars of the Charter of the United Nations. The Committee had also emphasized risk analysis, prevention and resilience-building as common threads connecting pillars. In addition, the Committee had affirmed its commitment to continued engagement on those critical issues.

89. The Chair recalled that the finalized discussion paper of the Committee, entitled "Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies and preventing violent conflict: strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development and peace and security actors in preventing conflict and supporting delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals", prepared under the leadership of the Department of Political Affairs and incorporating feedback from the Committee, had subsequently served as a basis for the retreat discussions of CEB on cross-pillar integration at its second regular session of 2015. At that session, CEB had concurred with the Committee's assessment that rising to the challenges of preventing conflict, sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development required comprehensive and collaborative support from across the entire United Nations system. CEB had also expressed support for the recommendations contained in the Committee's discussion paper, specifically to send a strong and formal signal of the unity of purpose of the United Nations system, in the form of a CEB policy statement, and to develop a clearer conceptual framework of linkages across the United Nations pillars in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

90. The Chair explained that the tasks assigned to the Committee by CEB would be pursued in two steps. First, the Committee had before it, for its review and approval, a draft CEB policy statement entitled "Bringing the United Nations system together to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding with the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", prepared jointly by the Department of Political Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office, in consultation with members of the Committee. Second, the Committee would develop, in the coming months, a framing paper to analyse specific linkages across the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to articulating a shared understanding of integration parameters and opportunities in order to foster enhanced cross-pillar coordination. Furthermore, as an additional input to those efforts and in the light of the centrality of a better understanding of risk, the World Food Programme (WFP) had prepared a discussion note specifically addressing risk analysis, prevention and resilience for consideration by the Committee at its thirty-first session.

91. Stephen Jackson, Chief of Policy Planning of the Department of Political Affairs, introduced the draft CEB policy statement. He observed that, with the preparation of the reviews of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and the adoption of the transformative and universal 2030 Agenda, 2015 had been characterized by a series of interwoven examinations of the United Nations peace and

security architecture. The World Humanitarian Summit was expected to further deepen that reflection by emphasizing the importance of conflict prevention. Collectively, those reviews and intergovernmental policy processes placed prevention and peacebuilding firmly at the centre of the collective work of the United Nations. The 2030 Agenda, in particular, sought to address the world's most pressing problems in a truly integrated way by combining environmental, development, human rights, inclusiveness and peace and stability concerns into a single, symbiotic package. Accordingly, the 2030 Agenda provided strong impetus for the United Nations system to overcome silos and fragmentation and improve its work in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized, many of whom live in conflict-affected settings.

92. Mr. Jackson underscored that CEB had a critical role to play in addressing the challenge of closer collaboration and coordination across institutional pillars and mandates. Building on the work that had been initiated at the previous session of the Committee, which had provided an important substantive input to the CEB retreat discussion on enhancing integration across the United Nations system through interlinkages between peace, humanitarian and development efforts, the Committee, with its broad mandate, was uniquely placed to advance that work towards greater cross-pillar integration, in partnership with key relevant actors, such as the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Support Office. The draft CEB policy statement before the Committee sought to help to generate awareness, commitment and concrete action by the United Nations system with regard to that imperative by focusing on the pursuit of collective objectives through collaboration, rather than integration for its own sake.

93. Highlighting salient aspects of the draft CEB policy statement, Mr. Jackson explained that the text proposed a set of eight commitments, including a pledge to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations system to identify drivers of conflict, detect early warning signals and respond quickly to imminent threats. It also underscored the importance of carrying out joint, whole-of-system analysis, planning, programming and monitoring, and of securing adequate and predictable resources for preventing conflict and sustaining peace. The text also contained a commitment by CEB to work with Member States in bringing together the various parts of the United Nations system in support of the 2030 Agenda. Lastly, the statement reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations system to support women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

94. Paul Howe, Chief of the Emergencies and Transitions Unit of WFP, introduced the discussion note on risk analysis, prevention and resilience. He noted that, given current trends regarding conflict and humanitarian crises, a decidedly proactive approach was needed in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. The three components outlined in the discussion paper — risk analysis, prevention and resilience — presented an approach that, while chronological and complementary, was not without conceptual challenges. Whereas risk analysis and resilience-building were concepts most frequently applied in the context of natural disasters, prevention was most often applied in situations of conflict. The paper before the Committee represented an attempt to identify key conceptual issues that needed to be addressed in order to equip the United Nations system with a more coherent policy framework applicable to all crisis situations.

95. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Department of Political Affairs for their leadership in preparing the draft CEB policy statement and thanked WFP for the informative and thought-provoking discussion paper.

96. The members of the Committee unanimously supported the draft CEB policy statement, with many noting the high quality of the text and its usefulness in demonstrating the need to break down existing institutional and substantive silos. The statement provided a welcome impetus for the organizations and entities of the United Nations system to broaden their horizons and deepen their commitment to cooperation and collaboration across the peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development areas of United Nations work. In the light of the dramatically increasing needs, brought about by a staggering number of conflicts and humanitarian crises, coupled with the diminishing resources for addressing those needs, it was unanimously stressed that the United Nations system needed to work more systematically across pillars and mandates in order to leverage comprehensive support in addressing global challenges. Noting that cross-pillar integration was not an end in itself, the Committee agreed that the ultimate objectives of working better together were to prevent and address the root causes of violent conflicts, promote the rule of law, build resilience and sustain peace, and that, therefore, lasting peace was a key and shared objective of and a prerequisite for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

97. Some members proposed minor amendments to the language contained in the draft statement, including with respect to recognizing stakeholders beyond the United Nations system, relevant normative and legal frameworks, cross-pillar integration in intergovernmental deliberations, the importance of culture and institutional capacities and the issue of external drivers of conflict. The Committee was reminded that the World Humanitarian Summit would address the issues of drivers and the root causes of humanitarian emergencies.

98. The Committee express appreciation for the discussion note on risk analysis, prevention and resilience, with many members stating that they regarded the analysis provided therein as forward-looking and thought-provoking. It was noted that the paper would also provide useful input to the framing paper on cross-pillar linkages across the Sustainable Development Goals, which the Committee planned to consider at its thirty-second session. As efforts in that area progressed, the Committee needed to be mindful of ongoing work being done within the context of other inter-agency bodies, including the Joint Working Group on Transition Issues and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Post-War and Disaster Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, in order to avoid duplication and maximize synergies and complementarities. Some members reflected on the scope of the possible initiative under the Committee's auspices, suggesting that the work be expanded beyond risk analysis to include risk management. The role of institutions in resilience-building was highlighted, as was the need to focus more on the issue of impact mitigation and the importance of ensuring gender and age sensitivity.

99. The Department of Political Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office, in response to the issues raised by members of the Committee, thanked the Committee for its support, noting an institutional shift in mindsets that had been sparked by the historic opportunity presented by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the series of peace and security reviews and the forthcoming World Humanitarian Summit. There

was agreement that the work on integration had gone beyond Sustainable Development Goal 16 and that short-term and long-term objectives needed to be balanced. The Committee was assured that its comments would be taken appropriately into account in the finalization of the draft statement.

100. With regard to the topic of risk assessment, resilience and prevention, WFP agreed with many members on the need for greater conceptual development and harmonization in that area and supported the suggestion that a closer examination of those issues be initiated with a view to developing a framework that would enhance policy coherence across a variety of crisis situations.

101. In closing, the Chair noted the strong support for the draft CEB policy statement and observed that it presented a very useful, albeit intermediate, step towards more determined action by the United Nations system on the issue of cross-pillar integration. Confirming the statement's nature and focus as an affirmation of executive-level commitment and internal policy direction for the system, he expressed his conviction that the statement would help CEB to deepen its reflections on the issue. The Chair also welcomed the further and deeper consideration by the Committee of the analytical concepts of risk and resilience, under the leadership of WFP and in consultation with interested Committee members.

102. The Chair also reminded the Committee that CEB had assigned it an additional task, at the Committee's recommendation, to develop a framing paper to clarify how the various Sustainable Development Goals were linked and how they could be effectively integrated across different United Nations pillars. He reported that United Nations University had agreed to take the lead on that work, in close consultation with the Committee and other relevant United Nations actors, for consideration by the Committee at its thirty-second session.

Conclusion

103. **The Committee approved the draft CEB policy statement, subject to appropriate reflection on comments made during the discussion, for transmission to CEB for endorsement at its first regular session of 2016 (see annex VIII to the present report). The Committee also requested WFP to lead an informal task team to deepen analytical work on risk, prevention and resilience, taking into account the views expressed at its thirty-first session.**

VIII. Agenda item 7: support for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

104. In introducing the agenda item, the Chair cited the extensive efforts undertaken over the past few years by CEB and its high-level committees on the preparation by the United Nations system for the post-2015 development agenda. Specifically, he highlighted the outcome of the joint session of October 2014 with the High-level Committee on Management, which had captured a shared vision and common understanding of the changes that would be required of the system, individually and collectively, to support a coherent, coordinated and effective approach to contributing to the transformative agenda.

105. The Chair recalled that CEB had most recently taken up the subject of the readiness of the United Nations system to support the implementation of the 2030

Agenda at its second regular session of 2015, only weeks after it had been adopted by Member States. The Secretary-General, in concluding the discussion by CEB, had requested its high-level committees to work together to produce a common set of principles, across policy, operational and administrative aspects of the work of the United Nations system, to guide the support of the system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals in an integrated manner.

106. A draft set of principles was prepared jointly by the secretariats of the Committee and those of the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group as a common proposal to follow up on the request of the Secretary-General. It built on the substantial body of already considered and approved work generated in the course of discussions by CEB and its committees on the new development agenda, including the joint session of 2014. All three committees were considering the same draft common principles concurrently.

107. The Chair brought to the attention of the Committee the background paper entitled "CEB common principles to guide the United Nations system's effective, integrated and whole-of-system support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The principles were directed internally to guide action by the United Nations system to support the several major intergovernmental agreements concluded in 2015, with the 2030 Agenda as an overarching framework. The Committee was invited to reflect on whether the principles served as an adequate common reference point, which system-wide initiatives undertaken in the context of the Committee already supported the application of the common principles and what specific initiatives or actions it could pursue in the near future to contribute further to the realization of the common principles.

108. In the ensuing discussion, members expressed broad support for the draft proposal, with several noting that their organizations had actively contributed to the development of the principles through the various Committee processes. It was acknowledged that the principles were not necessarily new in substance, but the exercise was significant in that such axioms had never been crystallized and formally agreed upon at the highest level across the United Nations system. They were about convergence and the expression of a shared aspiration, and were intended to serve as a common basis for further efforts to strengthen and transform the United Nations system so that it could effectively address the challenges of the post-2015 world. The importance of liaising, as appropriate, with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on that and other relevant efforts of the Committee was noted by a few speakers.

109. In reflecting on the proposal, several members stressed that the diversity, specialization and complementarity of the entities of the United Nations system were strengths and that each agency offered different comparative advantages while working within its own mandate. A member observed with satisfaction that accountability featured prominently among the principles. Although there was the expectation that the United Nations system would have to change in some ways in order to respond to the universal, integrated and transformative 2030 Agenda, there needed to be recognition that the system did many things well and should continue to build on those achievements. An important role that the United Nations system would have in supporting sustainable development was in advocating that countries take a holistic approach to its implementation and embrace the 2030 Agenda as indivisible. The fundamental principle that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

was country-led and country-owned was strongly emphasized by several speakers. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) noted that the principles were well aligned with its vision and operating model, which was the only co-sponsored joint programme within the United Nations system, and that UNAIDS itself exemplified many of the principles in practice.

110. The need to move from the conceptual clarity provided by the common principles to operational clarity was noted as the key challenge ahead for the United Nations system and an immediate priority for the Committee and other CEB mechanisms. While the principles themselves were considered generally acceptable, members noted that more work needed to be done in "unpacking" their implications and identifying how to translate them into policies and guidance for organizations. Over the course of the discussion, members offered a number of observations relating to the means of achieving the principles and the additional work needed in that regard. It was stated that operational clarity would not be possible without specific indicators. Much work was ongoing within the United Nations Development Group, such as efforts relating to "Delivering as One", the standard operating procedures, mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, would support the operationalization of the common principles at the country level.

111. Within the context of the Committee, members identified a number of specific areas that might warrant further consideration and elaboration. One speaker observed that, while referred to in the first principle, the concept of universality did not permeate the entire proposal and signalled the possible need to reflect further on how to integrate a universal approach into the work of the United Nations system. Another member suggested that it would be useful to identify the drivers of change to which the system needed to adapt and to determine what needed to be changed with respect to governance, implementation, monitoring/reporting and accountability. Indeed, given the scope and breadth of the sustainable development agenda and its implications for the system, it was suggested that the Committee assess which other gaps and challenges warranted its focus in the near future.

112. A number of members spoke about actions that would contribute to the strengthening of coherence and coordination in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was stressed that the United Nations system needed to work with common indicators that were aligned with those agreed upon in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals in order to contribute to a coherent and streamlined monitoring and reporting approach and to promote partnerships that created synergies across the various intergovernmental agreements. Another member expressed the view that, for each Goal, an entity or group of entities with the requisite expertise could be designated to coordinate related work and ensure policy coherence within the system. Joint investment strategies and financing instruments, including in particular pooled funds, were highlighted as another important contribution to the strengthening of coordination and coherence.

113. Other actions to advance the principles were highlighted. One member made the point that the United Nations system should take stock of the steps that Member States had taken to ensure coherence, cost-effectiveness and stakeholder engagement in their national implementation efforts. It was suggested that the United Nations system enhance efforts to support an inclusive, empowerment-based approach to decision-making, implementation and monitoring. One organization's

efforts to champion volunteerism as a cross-cutting tool to broaden stakeholder platforms for implementing the 2030 Agenda were also mentioned.

114. Several members commented on the significance of data in the context of the new development agenda. Member States were looking to the United Nations system to strengthen their capacity to monitor and report on progress. In view of the importance of data in informing joint analysis and decision-making, the United Nations system had a vital role to play in supporting the production of disaggregated data to ensure that no one was left behind, helping to improve the quality of data and promoting the use of science-based projections to inform risk analysis. It would be important to develop data policies consistent with and supportive of the economic models of the data producers. The United Nations system also had the responsibility to share data sets and enable wider data exchange.

115. Noting the strong emphasis on human capital and leadership across the principles, the representative of the United Nations System Staff College referred to the recent establishment of a knowledge centre in Bonn, Germany, aimed at developing the skills and capacities required in the post-2015 world and offered, as one possible follow-up effort, to lead a consultative process to define the characteristics of the United Nations system as a "leader of the future", with a view to generating a leadership model supportive of the 2030 Agenda.

116. Members cited a number of activities that had already been advancing through the Committee and that supported directly the realization of the principles, such as the work on combating inequalities and discrimination, which contributed to realizing the people-centred, rights-based and leave-no-one-behind principle; the work on promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, which was aligned with the principle of preventing crises and sustaining peace as a shared purpose and responsibility; and the development of the partnership on the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, which was a manifestation of leveraging partnerships.

117. A number of members commented that their constituencies, such as the relevant line ministries, were reaching out for assistance in implementation, for example, in translating the global indicators into national and subnational level indicators. This reinforced the important advocacy and capacity-development role of the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular with respect to the universal and integrated nature of the agenda. Some members expressed an interest in sharing agency experiences in meeting the needs of their Member States in this context.

118. With reference to the background document itself, it was suggested that the order of the principles be changed and that some of them be edited or combined to reduce overlap. A range of detailed editorial amendments were offered for consideration, such as inserting a reference to disaggregated data in the related principle; including "addressing root causes" in the principle on preventing crises; specifying that many of the furthest behind lived in crisis-affected settings; inserting text on strengthening the rule of law; and adding a reference to vertical integration among the subnational, national, regional and global levels in the principle on an integrated agenda. Two additional principles were proposed: on inclusive low-carbon, low-emission and climate-resilient growth and on financing for purpose.

119. It was suggested, and ultimately agreed, that it would not be desirable to reflect a collection of sectoral issues throughout the principles; rather, they should serve as a strategic-level and conceptual common reference point to capture the

essence of the change that was required to guide the support of the United Nations system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Noting that the proposed principles reflected a compendium of the work undertaken and approved by the three high-level committees over the past few years, a number of members appealed to the Committee to continue to stand behind them without new extensive redrafting or the addition of specific sectoral or mandate-based elements and, instead, to commend them to CEB as a set of broadly understood and accepted strategic-level principles that represented common axioms that the United Nations system could commit itself to operationalizing.

120. In support of that conclusion, one speaker recalled the high expectation of the Secretary-General that the whole United Nations system would rally around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The guiding principles were a crucial and visible step towards demonstrating that the United Nations system was coalescing in support of the 2030 Agenda and a manifestation of the importance that it attached to the necessity of functioning differently. Reminded that the Secretary-General was indeed counting on the Committee to support his call for a new era of collaboration, it was agreed that key to doing so was putting forward the principles for the consideration of CEB at its forthcoming meeting, while recognizing that further work still remained towards their realization through an ongoing and evolving process of efforts.

121. Citing the pragmatic suggestions made by several speakers and reiterating that the principles largely reflected long-held, yet not-fully realized, concepts that had been agreed upon within the CEB committees, the Chair secured the Committee's endorsement, in principle, of the proposed common principles. In the presentation to CEB, areas for further work to advance the high-level principles, as suggested during the discussion, would be duly outlined. The Chair committed himself to briefing CEB on the Committee's rich discussion of the agenda item when reporting on the session.

Conclusion

122. **The Committee endorsed, in principle, from a policy and programmatic coherence perspective, the proposed common principles to guide the support of the United Nations system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for consideration by CEB and as an input to its discussion on the topic at its first regular session of 2016. In presenting the common principles to CEB, the substantive essence of the Committee's discussion will be conveyed.**

IX. Agenda item 8: summary of information items

123. Prior to the thirty-first session, the Committee had received by e-mail the information notes referred to below for review and endorsement on a non-objection basis. No objection was received. The comments received were addressed directly by the authors of the reports. The Chair therefore invited the Committee to take note of the reports, which provided updates on the progress made since the thirtieth session of the Committee.

A. Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

124. The information note prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States reported on progress made in the preparation of a toolkit for mainstreaming the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, the current version of which was contained in an annex to the note. The World Trade Organization had requested that additional input be added to the toolkit and suggested that it could be more oriented towards the 2030 Agenda. A member familiar with its development process observed that the toolkit was seen as a living document and that it was expected to be updated in line with the outcome of the midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, which would be held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016. The Chair supported making the links with the 2030 Agenda explicit, in conformity with the decisions of Member States at the midterm review.

B. UN-Water, UN-Energy and UN-Oceans

125. Information notes prepared by UN-Water, UN-Energy and UN-Oceans provided progress updates on the recent activities of the three inter-agency coordination bodies.

Conclusion

126. **The Committee took note of the information notes.**

X. Agenda item 9: other issues

A. Dates and venue of the thirty-second session

127. Committee members were informed of the proposal to hold the thirty-second session of the Committee in New York on 29 and 30 September 2016.

Conclusion

128. **The Committee confirmed the dates of 29 and 30 September 2016 for its thirty-second session, to be held in New York.**

B. Any other business

129. In advance of the session, the Committee had received a briefing note on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy, prepared by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and an information note on the outcome of the high-level meeting relating to the open consultation process on overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes and the 2030 Agenda, prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as Chair of the United Nations Group on the Information Society.

130. In addition, the representative of UNCTAD announced and extended an invitation to the Committee's member organizations to the fourteenth session of UNCTAD, to be held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016. Under the theme "From decisions to actions", the conference would focus on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and feature ministerial debates, high-level round tables, the fifth World Investment Forum, the seventh Global Commodities Forum, a youth forum and a civil society forum.

131. The representative of the United Nations System Staff College alerted the Committee to the establishment of its knowledge centre for sustainable development in Bonn, Germany, noting its potential as a possible resource for the Committee and its initiatives, in particular in the areas of building leadership and capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

132. The representative of Universal Postal Union informed the Committee that the Union's ministerial conference, would be held in Istanbul, on 4 October 2016.

Conclusion

133. **The Committee took note of the information shared.**

XI. Closing/Concluding remarks

134. Given that he was concluding his tenure as Chair of the Committee, Mr. Steiner reflected on the unique role of the Committee in advancing coherence and coordination within the United Nations system at a time when global challenges were growing in frequency and intensity. As the Committee had demonstrated again at its thirty-first session, it produced its best results when its members took off their "institutional hats" and engaged in a true dialogue with the United Nations system that consistently produced the type of results on which CEB had come to rely.

135. Looking ahead, the Chair noted the need for the Committee to further reflect on its strategic contributions and future directions for enhancing the support of the United Nations system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that context, he considered it particularly important that the Committee further strengthen its cooperation and synergy with the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group to ensure that the strategic thinking provided by the High-level Committee on Programmes was effectively translated into practical application at the country level and reinforced by enabling business practices.

136. The Chair acknowledged the influence and intellectual heft of his immediate predecessor, Juan Somavia of ILO, and expressed his deep gratitude to his four successive Vice-Chairs, namely, Elliot Harris, then of IMF, Gunilla Olson of UNICEF, Ms. Stewart of ILO and Navid Hanif of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for their skilful assistance in guiding the Committee. He also thanked the secretariat of the Committee for its outstanding substantive and organizational support in the preparation of and follow-up to the meetings.

137. The Committee members, in a standing ovation, commended the Chair for his outstanding and inspirational leadership, which had transformed and elevated the Committee, making it the premier platform for "thinking as one" within the United Nations system, and for providing strategic and forward-looking input to the considerations and proceedings of CEB.

Annex I

Agenda

Item 1	**Urbanization and Sustainable Development**
Item 2	**Disaster Risk Reduction**
Item 3	**Climate Change**
Item 4	**World Humanitarian Summit**
Item 5	**Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development**
Item 6	**Promoting Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies, Preventing Conflict**
Item 7	**Support to the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda**
Item 8	**Summary of Information Items**
	(a) Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
	(b) Reports of UN-Water, UN-Energy, and UN-Oceans
Item 9	**Other Issues**
	(a) Dates and Location of HLCP 32nd session
	(b) Any Other Business

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* The annexes to the present document are being circulated in the language of submission only and without formal editing.

Annex II

List of participants

Chair: **Mr. Achim Steiner** (UNEP)
Vice-Chair: **Mr. Navid Hanif** (DESA)
Secretary: **Ms. Kayoko Gotoh**

United Nations	
Executive Office of the Secretary-General	Mr. Paul Akiwumi
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Mr. Navid Hanif
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Ms. Gwi-Yeop Son Ms. Merete Johansson Ms. Suhgenie Kim Ms. Masayo Kondo
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	Mr. Craig Mokhiber Ms. Sally-Anne Way
Regional Commissions	Mr. Amr Nour Ms. Monika Linn
Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	Mr. Robert Glasser Mr. Neil McFarlane Mr. John Harding Ms. Muthoni Njogu
Department for Political Affairs (via VC)	Mr. Stephen Jackson Ms. Eugenia Zorbas
Department of Peacekeeping Operations (via VC)	Mr. Oliver Ulich
Peacebuilding Support Office (via VC)	Mr. Henk-Jan Brinkman
International Labour Organization	Mr. Andre Bogui Ms. Margaret Mottaz Ms. Giovanna Rossignotti Mr. Edmundo Werna
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations	Ms. Carla Mucavi Ms. Alice Van der Elstraeten Ms. Jacqueline Barin
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Mr. Jean-Yves Le Saux
World Health Organization	Mr. Shambhu Acharya Ms. Ivana Milovanovic Ms. Mariana Crespo
World Bank Group	Ms. Selina Jackson Ms. Lobna Hadji
International Monetary Fund	Mr. Axel Bertuch-Samuels

Universal Postal Union	Mr. Alassane Guiro
International Telecommunication Union	Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin Mr. Mario Castro Grande
World Meteorological Organization	Mr. Petteri Taalas, SG (*Opening Remarks*) Ms. Elena Manaenkova Mr. Christian Blondin Mr. Paul Egerton
International Maritime Organization	Mr. Jesper Loldrup
World Intellectual Property Organization	Mr. Naresh Prasad Ms. Dalila Hamou Mr. Victor Owade
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Ms. Bettina Prato
United National Industrial Development Organization	Mr. Frank van Rompaey
International Atomic Energy Agency	Ms. Margit Bruck-Friedrich
World Trade Organization	Mr. Said El Hachimi
World Tourism Organization	Ms. Cordula Wohlmuther Ms. Zoritsa Urosevic
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Mr. Adnan Issa Ms. Anida Yupari
United Nations Development Programme	Mr. Magdy Martínez-Solimán Mr. Pedro Conceição Mr. Patrick Gremillet Ms. Katy Thompson (via VC)
United Nations Environment Programme	Ms. Corli Pretorius Ms. Maaike Jansen
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Mr. Steven Corliss Mr. Jose Riera Ms. Annika Sandlund
United Nations United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	Mr. Sam Rose
United Nations Children's Fund	Mr. Ted Chaiban Mr. Christopher Stokes
United Nations Population Fund	Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov Mr. Alexander Pak
World Food Programme	Mr. Arif Husain Mr. Paul Howe Mr. Anthony Craig
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes	Ms. Gillian Murray
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza Ms. Yamina Djacta Ms. Christine Auclair

UN-Women	**Mr. Moez Doraid**
United Nations University	**Mr. James Cockayne**
United Nations System Staff College	**Ms. Claire Messina**
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	**Ms. Abigail David**
UN Development Operations Coordination Office	**Mr. Alex Warren-Rodriguez**
CEB Secretariat	**Mr. Remo Lalli** **Ms. Xenia von Lilien** **Ms. Cheryl Stafford** **Ms. Catherine Zanev** **Mr. Silvan Scheiwiller**

Annex III

“Urbanization and Sustainable Development: A United Nations System Input to a New Urban Agenda”

Executive Summary

This paper addresses the challenges facing today’s urbanization patterns and the opportunities that urbanization offers. It presents, for consideration by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), ten guiding principles and ten key levers of transformative change towards sustainable urbanization as a United Nations system input to a ‘New Urban Agenda’, the expected outcome document of Habitat III. It also proposes a multi-stakeholder partnership based on the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign platform for the implementation of a ‘New Urban Agenda’.

Urbanization is one of the most important global trends of the 21st century. It is a transformative force that can be harnessed to enhance economic growth, productivity and development in general, including wealth and state-building. However, today’s most common urbanization patterns are not sustainable environmentally, socially, politically and economically. They present a number of challenges to ensuring equitable access to urban basic services, including water, sanitation, health, education, and social services as envisioned in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The many opportunities of urbanization today could be the basis for harnessing its transformative force and activating a pattern of urban growth that could positively impact other spheres of national development. Ten guiding principles could steer the vision of such a new urban agenda and induce transformative change:

(a) Promoting a new urbanization vision that is universal and adaptable to different national circumstances and that is based on the key urbanization challenges and opportunities shared by all countries.

(b) Promoting a new urbanization vision with mechanisms and procedures that respect, protect and promote human rights and social justice.

(c) Promoting equitable urban development and inclusive urban growth, which entails bringing equality and non-discrimination considerations, including gender equality, to the centre of urban development.

(d) Promoting integration in the implementation of a new urbanization vision in order to address the environmental, social and economic objectives of sustainability, which have many inter-linkages, including rural-urban linkages that need to be addressed in a balanced and equitable way, as well as the concerns of different levels of government, including local governments.

(e) Promoting the empowerment of civil society, meaningful participation and consultation in decision-making processes, expanding democratic participation and reinforcing multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration.

(f) Promoting green cities and environmental sustainability, which involves establishing a critical connection between science, environment, industry, economic growth, resource use, urban planning and governance.

(g) Promoting urban metabolism as a cornerstone of urban planning and management and a fundamental aspect of urban resilience.

(h) Promoting solutions that work for fragile cities to reduce the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of urban populations in fragile cities most at risk to multiple and interlocking natural and human-made crises.

(i) Promoting innovations that facilitate learning and the sharing of knowledge, which entails the creation of supportive learning, science, technology and innovation policies as well as development of capacities.

(j) Promoting a global data revolution for effective, results-based, implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda at the local, national and global levels.

The proposed New Urban Agenda should represent a paradigm shift towards a new vision of urbanization that can better respond to the challenges of our age. Ten key levers of change, adaptable to different circumstances, may be considered. The first five levers deal with the strategic conditions for sustainable urban development. Of the other five, three address the needs of urban households (the deliverables of sustainable urbanization), while two are about other fundamental requirements.

1. *Developing and implementing national urban policies*: This lever amalgamates the dispersed energy and potential of urban centres within a national system of cities and towns. It helps to establish the role and responsibilities of cities and towns in national development, including rural development, to coordinate the work of different sectors and tiers of government, to establish the incentives for more sustainable practices, and to allocate resources accordingly.

2. *Strengthening urban legislation and systems of governance*: Laws, institutions and systems of governance in line with states international obligations and bound by human rights and the rule of law shape the operational principles as well as the stability of organizational structures and institutional and social relationships that underpin the process of urbanization, including guarding against corruption.

3. *Harnessing the urban economy, creating employment opportunities and improving existing working conditions for all*: Many urban areas and regions require economic regeneration, cluster development and industrial zone strategies; productivity plans, employment generation and income-growth programmes, including some targeted at youth and women; as well as sustainable transport.

4. *Strengthening municipal finance*: This lever is about realigning fiscal authority, responsibility and revenue sharing, i.e. achieving the right balance between different levels of government; improving systems of revenue collection; designing new financial mechanisms; and improving budget management and transparency.

5. *Reinvigorating territorial planning and urban design*: New planning methods and systems can contribute to changing the city's structure, form and functionality towards more compact, integrated and connected and sustainable solutions, such as densification, social diversity and mixed land uses, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable use of natural resources, as well as adequate and safe public spaces, including vibrant streets.

6. *Promoting universal and equitable access to quality and affordable basic services*: A new urban development vision supporting the SDGs will promote universal and equitable access to quality and affordable health and education services, clean water and sanitation, sustainable energy and transport and nutritious food, as well as basic income security, and socio-economic safety nets and other social services, especially for people living in poverty, including those living in rural areas close to cities and towns, i.e. in urban-rural regions.

7. *Promoting adequate housing for all income categories of urban residents*: This requires equal access to land for different social groups; prioritizing sustainable, energy efficient housing for the most in need; effective land-use plans; adequate legal and institutional frameworks; sustainable building technologies; predictable financial mechanisms for affordable housing; and recognition of housing as a place of work. Housing can contribute to the realization of human rights and to growth through backward and forward linkages.

8. *Strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment*: National and local governments are encouraged to develop their capacity to integrate a gender perspective into all their urban policies and programmes so as to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and to improve the welfare and rights of all women and girls.

9. *Placing culture at the heart of sustainable urban development*: Integrating culture in urban development policies will contribute to efficient management of urban change. Leveraging creativity and cultural diversity will foster social cohesion and promote job opportunities in culture and tourism related activities. Strengthening the understanding of the socio-cultural context of urban spaces will also enhance their liveability and contribute to urban regeneration.

10. *Promoting resource efficiency and circular economy at city level*: More efficient delivery of urban services, including management of resources flowing to, from, and within cities can contribute to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

The proposed guiding principles, levers of transformative change and multi-stakeholder partnership could be the basis of a UN system-wide approach to the implementation of the cities and human settlements dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Goal 11, 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable', and the outcome of Habitat III. They could also constitute a framework for cooperation and showcasing of UN work on urban issues in a way that demonstrates UN policy coherence in the area of sustainable urbanization.

I – Introduction

1. This paper addresses the challenges facing today's urbanization patterns and the opportunities that urbanization offers. On the basis of these, it presents, for consideration by the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), ten guiding principles and ten key levers of transformative change towards sustainable urbanization as a UN system input to the 'New Urban Agenda', the expected outcome document of Habitat III. It also proposes a multi-stakeholder partnership for the implementation of a 'New Urban Agenda'.

2. It is important to state, at the outset, that the proposals contained in this paper do not seek to establish a blueprint. Instead, the proposals constitute a new vision and general principles of sustainable urbanization (guiding principles and levers of transformative change) that need to be contextualized and adapted to different settings.

II – Urbanization can drive economic growth and development, yet the prevailing urbanization patterns are not sustainable

3. At the beginning of the 19th century, only 2 per cent of the world's population was urban. By the beginning of the 20th century, the percentage had increased to 10. During the first decade of the 21st century, a historic milestone was reached when the population living in cities and towns exceeded 50 per cent of the global population, thus making urban centres the dominant habitat of humankind. Urbanization continues to increase, with 60 per cent of the world's population expected to live in cities by 2030 and nearly 70 per cent by 2050 (see Table 1). Most of this growth, at least 90 per cent, will take place in low-income countries, some of which are currently fragile states plagued with recurrent conflicts.

Box 1. Urbanization and socio-economic transformation

'Urbanization' may be defined as a process of change from rural to urban ways of living, in physical-spatial, social and economic terms. It is the process by which towns and cities are formed and increase in number and size as more and more people begin living and working in central areas defined as 'urban'. The word 'urban' is defined differently from country to country, but the criteria used for such definitions are usually population size, population density, and proportion of population in non-agricultural occupations, with clear thresholds being given for each criterion.

The process of urbanization is associated with fundamental demographic, economic and social transformations. Demographically, urbanization is a result of three processes: rural-to-urban migration; growth of the internal population of towns and cities; and official reclassification of 'rural' settlements to 'urban'. In physical-spatial terms, urbanization is the emergence and multiplication of comparatively large, dense and permanent agglomerations. Economically, urbanization involves the geographical or spatial concentration of non-agricultural productive activities such as industrial production/manufacturing and services, facilitated by agglomeration economies. Socially, and behaviourally, urbanization entails significant changes in ways of living, including from customary (or traditional) to bureaucratic ways of socio-political organization. Whereas urbanization offers many positive impacts for health, education, water and sanitation, urban settings also create or accentuate risk factors for health (such as for chronic diseases and spread of infectious diseases). It was, in fact, the outbreak of waterborne infectious diseases that directly led to the emergence of urban planning in 19th century Europe.

Urbanization is thus related to more intensive production and consumption patterns, as well as levels and rates of socio-economic activities, growth and development. Furthermore, it refers to cognitive processes; the changing of mindsets in ways that profoundly influence social development and innovation. The transformative force of urbanization is driven by these physical-spatial, social, behavioural, political and economic changes. Its potential strength is related to both the level and rate of urbanization in this wider context.

4. The rapidly increasing dominance of urban areas places the process of urbanization among the most significant global trends of the 21st century. But urbanization is not simply a demographic or spatial phenomenon.[1] Rather, it is a force which, if effectively steered and deployed, offers opportunities for more sustainable growth and wellbeing of populations. In urban areas, there are co-benefits brought about by many factors, including economies of agglomeration and of scale. Urbanization can help the world to overcome some of the major global challenges, including poverty, inequality, poor health, environmental degradation, climate change, fragility and conflict, to name just a few.

Table 1. Global urban population distribution

	Urban population Millions			Proportion of total population living in urban areas (%)			Urban population rate of change (% change per year)	
Region	**2010**	**2020**	**2030**	**2010**	**2020**	**2030**	**2010-2020**	**2020-2030**
World Total	3486	4176	4900	50.5	54.4	59.0	1.81	1.60
Developed countries	930	988	1037	75.2	77.9	80.9	0.16	0.48
North America	289	324	355	82.1	84.6	86.7	1.16	0.92
Europe	533	552	567	72.8	75.4	78.4	0.35	0.27
Other developed countries	108	111	114	70.5	73.3	76.8	0.33	0.20
Developing countries	2556	3188	3863	45.1	49.8	55.0	2.21	1.92
Africa	413	569	761	40.0	44.6	49.9	3.21	2.91
Sub-Saharan Africa	321	457	627	37.2	42.2	47.9	3.51	3.17
Rest of Africa	92	113	135	54.0	57.6	62.2	2.06	1.79
Asia/Pacific	1675	2086	2517	41.4	46.5	52.3	2.20	1.88
China	636	787	905	47.0	55.0	61.9	2.13	1.41
India	364	463	590	30.0	33.9	3[illegible].7	2.40	2.42
Rest of Asia/Pacific	674	836	1021	45.5	49.6	54.7	2.14	2.00
Latin America and the Caribbean	469	533	585	79.6	82.6	84.9	1.29	0.94
Least Developed Countries	249	366	520	29.2	34.5	40.8	3.84	3.50
Other developed countries	2307	2822	3344	47.9	52.8	58.1	2.01	1.70

Source: UN-Habitat, *Global Report on Human Settlements 2011: Cities and Climate Change*, Earthscan, London, 2011, p. 3.

5. Evidence shows that very few countries have ever achieved sustained economic growth, rapid social development and gender equality without urbanizing. The transition from low- to middle-income country status is almost always accompanied by a transition from a predominantly rural to a predominantly urban economy, a process often based on accumulation from the primary sector.[2] Urbanization is a force that has changed ways of

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[1] Urbanization has long been seen as a process of socio-economic and behavioural transformation. See Wirth Louis, "Urbanism as a Way of Life", *The American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 44 No. 1, July 1938, pp. 1-24.*

[2] Commission on Growth and Development, 2008.

thinking and acting, ways of using space, lifestyles, governing and solving disputes, social and economic relations, and consumption and production patterns. It has been a driving force behind profound social, cultural and political change, including state-building, although inequalities remain a substantial barrier to development in many cities, especially within developing countries (see Box 1). In many societies, urbanization has been the locus of much of their creativity and inventive spirit, and the bulk of their economic activity. It is estimated that urban areas account for about 70 per cent of the world's gross domestic product and a similar percentage of new job creation. Thus, urbanization has generated economic growth and prosperity, as well as the demand for inclusion and protection for many, including in post-conflict and transition contexts.[3] In short, urbanization can be a powerful driver of development. Moreover, when health, education and other social services are managed well in urban settings, inequalities are addressed, and coordination with urban planning is maximized, the potential to achieve other development outcomes is great. This was recognised by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and later integrated into the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as a stand-alone goal, i.e. Goal 11, on cities and human settlements: **"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"**.

6. **However, urbanization has generally followed a pattern that is unsustainable**:

a. *Environmentally*, with its combination of fossil fuel use and heavy dependence on the motor car; more intensive production and consumption patterns; extensive urban peripheries that often consume inordinate amounts of land, resources, and in many cases protected natural areas (largely steered by private, not public interest[4]); and with increasing impacts of natural disasters and outbreaks of communicable diseases. Extensive urban sprawl in different cities of the world is causing environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources, including the availability of arable land, thereby increasing per capita rates of resource use and greenhouse gas emissions as well as air pollution, leading to significant premature deaths and other impacts on health;

b. *Socially*, with exclusive forms of urban development that add to unequally distributed income and wealth generation, discrimination in law and in practice, as well as spatial inequalities, creating divided cities in the form of wealthy gated communities that are in sharp contrast to slums or poor areas with little or no access to basic municipal services. Different forms of poverty and marginalization and the increase of income inequality are exacerbated by speculative land and housing markets. Growing difficulties in integrating migrants and other groups of urban dwellers and in sharing the human, social, cultural and intellectual assets that urban centres offer create racially, ethnically and/or socially fragmented areas. Insensitive planning and lack of accessibility of urban infrastructure, facilities and public services contributes to barriers that prevent women in general and groups such as people living in poverty, persons with disabilities and older persons from participation as both agents and beneficiaries of urban development. Silo approaches to urban challenges have led to inefficient urban laws, policies and programmes. The contribution and the opinions of urban dwellers, especially people living in informal settlements, minorities or homeless people, are, in many circumstances, not considered in urban processes;

c. *Politically*, with the continuing domination of traditional modes of representation and leadership which tend to concentrate power in the hands of the economic and social elites and to disenfranchise large sections of the urban population that cannot access the formal political system — a process not limited to urban areas only. If cities are also where new forms of social organisation and civic participation mostly thrive, these are often not able to challenge the existing power structure within the formal structures of grievance management — when they do not reinforce it instead — and as a result, cities remain prone to tensions between groups for the control of power, money and identity that more and more often degenerate into outright conflict and violence. The rights to information and meaningful participation are, in many countries, generally absent from urban decision-making processes; and

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[3] UN-Habitat, Concept Paper, World Urban Forum 7, 2014.

[4] UN-Habitat, *State of the World's Cities Report 2012-2013: The Prosperity of Cities*, Earthscan-Routledge, London, 2012.

d. *Economically*, with the incessant increase in the cost of living which is prohibitive for many, forcing them to move to distant peripheries far removed from places of employment, further increasing their expenditure on transport, thereby limiting the urban advantage. Widespread under- and unemployment and different forms of unstable and low-paid jobs, informal income-generating activities and improper working conditions create additional economic restrictions, unequal access to basic services and amenities, and poor quality of life for many.

7. Despite the fact that urbanization has the potential to make towns, cities and city regions more prosperous and countries more advanced, many urban centres, both in the developing and the developed world, have found themselves unprepared in the face of current spatial, demographic, social, political and environmental challenges.

III – The challenges associated with development are exacerbated by poorly planned and managed urbanization

8. Urbanization, and particularly the city, historically has been associated with intrinsic attributes that generate positive dynamics for development and change. However, poor planning, discrimination, the absence of effective governance and legal frameworks, fragile institutions, low capacity of local authorities to finance, operate and deliver essential physical and social infrastructure and services, weak coordination mechanisms of different levels of government and across different sectors, as well as of rural-urban linkages, among other factors, have intensified the challenges associated with urbanization. Today the most pressing challenges include:

a. *Large scale urban poverty in many countries*: While poverty has fallen dramatically at the global level, urban poverty and inequality are growing challenges in many countries.[5] The lack of an agreed definition of urban poverty and the inconsistency of official data make it difficult to assess precisely the current extent of urban poverty worldwide; yet, studies at country level show that urban poverty is becoming more prevalent in many countries, partly because the expected improvement in quality of life has failed to materialize for many rural to urban as well as international migrants. Urban poverty is characterized by low incomes, low levels of access to housing, water, sanitation, education and health services, as well as hunger and malnutrition. Although hunger and malnutrition are often framed as rural problems, and urban poverty levels in the developing world are, on average, lower than rural levels, urban food insecurity is a growing issue. Urban food prices are usually higher than those in rural areas and urban dwellers have often only limited access to social protection systems such as safety nets. Urban livelihoods are highly dependent upon monetary income, and therefore upon regular income for their food security, making the poorest households especially vulnerable to internal and external economic factors outside their control. This is also true of energy and water, as lower-income urban households and people living in informal settlements spend a larger percentage of their income to cover their costs. Moreover, the lack of disaggregated data masks the significant differences in health outcomes between the wealthiest and poorest quintiles in urban areas;[6]

b. *The steady increase in the number of slum dwellers*: In many countries, urban expansion has often been characterized by informality, illegality and unplanned settlements, especially in developing countries (see Table 2). Above all, urban growth has been strongly associated with slum growth, which is primarily due to a lack of appropriate planning and affordable housing as well as low incomes.[7] In fact, the world's estimated 828 million slum dwellers suffer in varying degrees from poor sanitation, inadequate access to clean water, food insecurity and malnutrition, poor health, crime, unemployment, insecure tenure and threats of eviction, overcrowding and poor quality housing. Slums are, in fact, the physical manifestation of urban poverty. Slum growth affects women, children and members of other disadvantaged social groups disproportionately, often because they experience greater difficulty in accessing resources and services tailored to their needs as well as decision-making opportunities.[8] Continuing population growth, including migration into urban centres — caused by economic factors, natural disasters and conflicts, combined with the lack of appropriate responses and sustained solutions — is likely to increase the number of the urban poor and slum dwellers, whose shelter needs are not given adequate attention by municipal authorities, in spite of their provision of much needed labour to urban industries and high-income homes.[9] Moreover, continued lack of access to health services, safe drinking water and sanitation further exacerbate the cycle of poverty;

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[5] According to the World Bank, the number of the world's poor living on less than $1.25 a day decreased from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 1.3 billion in 2008. However, updated economic projections by the IMF and the World Bank indicate that an estimated 970 million people will continue to live on under $1.25 a day in 2015, equivalent to 15.5 per cent of the population in the developing world. Shaohua Chen and Martin Ravallion, 2012.

[6] WHO and UN-Habitat, *Hidden Cities: Unmasking and overcoming Health Inequalities in Urban Settings*, WHO Centre for Health Development, Kobe, and UN-Habitat, Nairobi, 2010: http://www.who.int/entity/kobe_centre/publications/hiddencities_media/who_un_habitat_hidden_cities_web.pdf?ua=1, accessed 16 September 2015.

[7] UN-Habitat shows that the absolute number of the world's slum population is not decline; on the contrary, the figure has been rising from 650 million in 1990, to 767 million in 2000 and to 863 million in 2012. UN-Habitat, database, 2014.

Table 2. Percentages of slum dwellers in developing regions

Major region or area	Percentage of urban population living in slums (per cent)						
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2010	2012
Developing regions	46.2	42.9	39.4	35.6	34.3	32.6	32.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	70.0	67.6	65.0	63.0	62.4	61.7	61.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	33.7	31.5	29.2	25.5	24.7	23.5	23.5
Eastern Asia	43.7	40.6	37.4	33.0	31.1	28.2	28.2
Southern Asia	49.5	44.8	39.6	34.2	31.9	31.0	31.0
Western Asia	22.5	21.6	20.6	25.8	25.2	24.6	24.6
Oceania	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1

Source: UN-Habitat, Global Urban Indicators Database, 2012.

c. *Concentration of multiple forms of poverty, vulnerability and marginalization in cities*: In addition to income poverty, there is an emerging concentration of overlapping forms of social exclusion and marginalization within some pockets in developed country cities[10]: infrastructure-poor, immigrant poverty, young people at risk, vulnerable women headed households, and vulnerable elderly, among others.[11] Many of these forms of poverty and marginalization stem from unemployment and under-employment, the decline of economic bases in decaying cities, low incomes, absence of traditional safety nets and lack of or weak social security systems, all of which are often physically manifested in segregated urban neighbourhoods, including those in which international migrants are concentrated, a phenomenon that is present in many cities in both the global south and the global north.[12] Marginalization, along with consequent vulnerability and poverty, directly affect people living with disability, people living in poverty and a number of other population groups, further driving inequality, as evidenced by analyses of social determinants of health.[13] Unemployment is one of the greatest challenges facing youth globally. Today there are more young people without work than ever before. Estimates of the proportion of unemployed 15-24-year-olds are close to one-third in many regions and countries, representing one of the most pressing problems in the world's cities and towns. In 2014, the global youth unemployment rate was 12.7%, compared with the overall unemployment rate of 5.9%. During the next 15 years, 600 million more people will join the global labour market, most of those will be urban youth in developing countries. These new entrants to the labour market will be competing with the existing 200 million unemployed and 550 million working poor;

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[8] See UN-Habitat, *State of the World's Cities 2012-2013: Prosperity of Cities, op. cit.*

[9] It is estimated that in the next 15 years the world's slum population will grow by around 7 million every year. Ibid.

[10] In Europe, 17 families out of 100 were considered at risk of poverty in 2007. López M. Eduardo, "*Addressing New Forms of Poverty and Exclusion in Europe*", European Commission, World and European Sustainable Cities, Insights from EU Research. 2010.

[11] López M. Eduardo, 2010. Ibid.

[12] Sharkey Patrick, "*Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress Toward Racial Equality*" Chicago, University of Chicago, 2013.

[13] WHO, Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health, xxx: http://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/en/.

d. *Rising inequality in urban areas across the world*: Inequality has become a universal concern. Differentials in access to opportunities and basic services, income, consumption, location, safety and security, information and technology, as well as gender-based and other forms of discrimination and stereotypes, are now the norm, not the exception. For the majority of the world's population, income disparities are today bigger than they were a generation ago.[14] Urban income inequalities intersect with other forms of inequality in the social, political, legal (in terms of both discriminatory laws and access to justice), spatial[15], cultural and environmental spheres, reinforcing the deprivation faced by many groups and individuals based on gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, location, disability and other factors.[16] Moreover, inequality is an important risk factor for crime and victimization. Meanwhile, many people's aspirations have risen due to greater access to information, resulting in social dissatisfaction and malaise;

e. *Decreasing levels of human security and increasing health gaps in cities*: Poverty, social deprivation, poor access to health, education and other social services, inadequate housing and crowded living conditions, increasing food and nutrition insecurity, problems with water safety and availability, inadequate sanitation and solid waste disposal services, air pollution, traffic congestion, road safety, criminal violence, epidemics of both communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as occupational health problems and accidents at work, are some of the factors associated with human insecurity in general and ill-health in particular that affect the population of many cities in the world today. The close proximity of people living in the environmentally poor conditions typical of many cities — especially in informal slum areas with insufficient access to health services — increases the risk of and vulnerability to maternal mortality, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) and vaccine-preventable diseases. The rates of HIV and TB infection are typically higher, and many health indicators are significantly worse in the poorest communities in urban areas as compared to those with higher-incomes. This is a result of extreme poverty, overcrowding, lack of housing, unaffordable or inaccessible health services and education, increased vulnerability and physical insecurity, stigma and discrimination, as well as separated families. For example, in all regions of the world, cities and other urban settlements bear a large and increasing share of the global HIV burden (see Figure 1). In sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that almost half (45%) of people living with HIV in 2014 were residing in urban areas.[17] Differentials in income quintiles affect many aspects of health outcomes: less life expectancy as well as deaths from water borne and non-communicable diseases. Marginalized communities are often hindered from providing the levels of education, health and social protection services that are required for the healthy and safe development of children. In addition, substance use disorders often erode further the already limited human and social capital of individuals and their families in such communities. These health gaps are growing despite unprecedented levels of global wealth, knowledge and health awareness.[18] Increased pressure on health care systems and basic services that often do not keep up with increasing demand and do not respond to changing demographic and epidemiological transitions is part of the problem;

f. *The speculative nature of housing and related markets*: Housing plays a fundamental role in national economic development, having a multiplier effect on employment, income generation, investments and savings.

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[14] The Economist, 2012. UN-Habitat estimates that more than two thirds of the world's population lives in cities where income inequality increased since 1980's. UN-Habitat, 2014.

[15] Poor urban planning increases inequality in cities by limiting job opportunities, aggravating gender disparities, intensifying crime, limiting the access to public goods and reducing forms of social capital. UN-Habitat, CAF, "*Construcción de ciudades más equitativas: políticas públicas para la inclusion en América Latina*", 2014.

[16] UN Open Working Group, 2013, Post-2015 Development Agenda, New York.

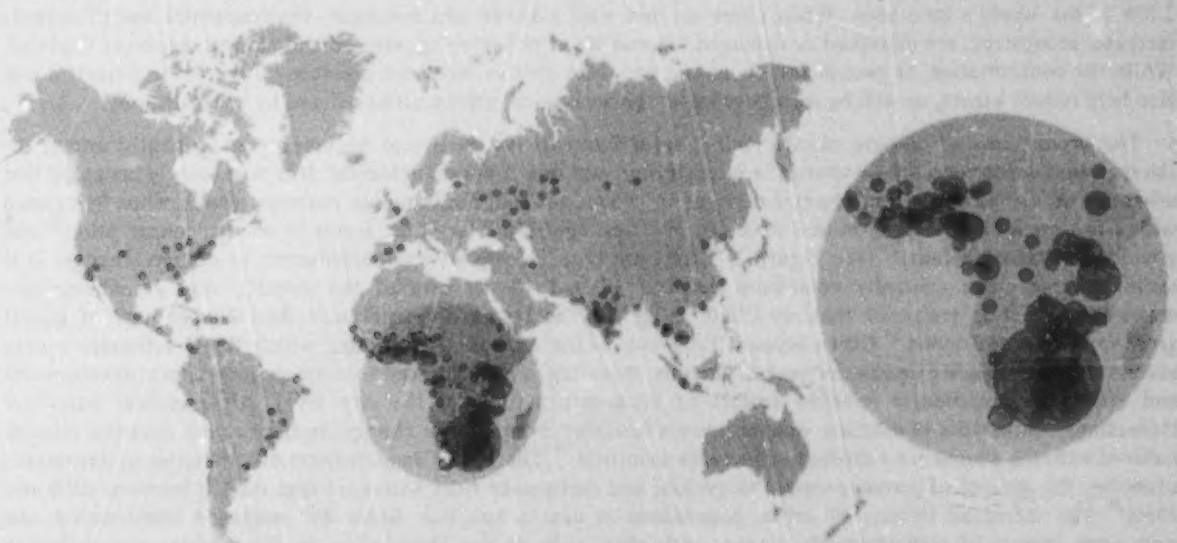
[17] UNAIDS, Cities Report, 2014.

[18] WHO, UN-Habitat, "*Hidden Cities: Unmasking and Overcoming Health Inequalities in Urban Settlings*", Switzerland, 2010.

However, a massive rise of subprime mortgage lending in the USA, partly driven by speculative behaviour and inadequate regulation of credit and financial markets, led to a sudden increase in defaults and collapse of several financial institutions, triggering the financial crisis that started in 2008 and spread globally through the contagion effect made possible by interconnected financial markets. Millions of people in a number of countries, mostly developed, faced foreclosure while at the same time millions of houses were left abandoned, underutilized or vacant.[19] Speculative behaviour in land, housing and financial markets in many countries has contributed to the endless expansion of cities, gentrification, rampant land sub-divisions, poor street and infrastructure connectivity and unsustainable consumption of land, resources and energy. Even more, decades of neglect of public housing, state intervention and the failure of the private market to produce an adequate number of affordable homes for all parts of the population has resulted in the polarization of cities, weakening of social cohesion and further inequalities. Policy perspectives have often considered housing, land, water and sanitation (alongside health, education or justice) as mere commodities, instead of recognizing their social functions;

Figure 1. Urbanization and HIV

World map of 200 cities with the greatest estimated number of people living with HIV, 2013



g. *Women face discrimination in the context of urbanization, poverty and violence*: On the one hand, women living below the poverty line, especially those living in slums,[20] tend to concentrate in the low-wage, low-skilled and often home-based jobs in the informal sector, and non-core jobs.[21] Moreover, women in poor communities do not enjoy the same rights to infrastructure and adequate housing. On the other hand, urban women living in poverty experience a higher degree of insecurity and vulnerability to violence as they are more likely than women from higher income groups to become victims of violence, including sexual violence, both in the public space, including the work place, and within the household, and they are more vulnerable to human trafficking;

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[19] López M. Eduardo and Zeltia Blanco, "Ghost Cities and Empty Houses: Wasted Prosperity", *American International Journal of Social Science*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 2014.

[20] Almost one billion people live in slums without basic services and social protection according to UN Habitat, *State of the World's Cities 2012-2013: Prosperity of Cities, op. cit.*

[21] Urbanization, gender and poverty. Technical briefing. UNFPA in association with IIED, March, 2012.

h. *Pressure for more infrastructure with associated non-efficient resource use*: In developing countries — where the second urbanisation wave is well under way — cities are facing the need to invest on a massive scale in new urban infrastructure to meet the rapidly growing needs of expanding urban populations and economies. It is estimated that 60% of the built infrastructure required to meet the needs of the world's urban population by 2050 still needs to be constructed.[22] That infrastructure should, first and foremost, serve the people living in cities; and, furthermore, the only way that infrastructure could be developed is by the active participation of markets and the private sector. A very dynamic system is therefore emerging in which the characteristics of cities are affecting and are getting affected by individual, institutional and corporate decisions and choices. While the decisions of institutions are emerging through policies, the decisions and choices of individuals are emerging through lifestyles and the decisions of corporations through market behaviour. A new urban agenda should recognize this complexity and offer a framework of solution-driven approaches that could bring together all these actors, their processes and the impacts of individual and institutional decision-making;

i. *High costs to the natural environment*: Increasing urbanization, often over the most productive agricultural land, produces particular environmental challenges associated with intensive land uses, higher resource and energy consumption, and rising difficulties in ensuring efficient and sustainable food systems as well as flows of goods and people. Although urban areas are now home to about half the world's population, they occupy only 2.8% of the world's land area. When cities are not well planned and managed, environmental health hazards increase, ecosystems are disrupted or damaged, air and water pollution aggravated and natural resources depleted. While the concentration of people and economic activities creates localized pressure on the environment, it can also help reduce others, as will be seen later under the section on opportunities offered by urbanization;

j. *The urban risks of climate change and natural hazards*: As the world becomes predominantly urban, the international debate on climate change is intensifying, and this is not coincidental. It is now widely accepted that urbanization brings about fundamental changes in production and consumption patterns, which when associated with a dysfunctional urban form and structure of cities, contribute to higher levels of energy consumption[23] and greenhouse gas emissions.[24] (see Figure 2) Cities are both victims of and contributors to climate change. It is estimated that cities currently contribute between 37 and 49 per cent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions and it is projected that, by 2050, cities will be responsible for more than 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.[25] Cities account for much of the air pollution burden, which WHO estimates causes seven million premature deaths per year.[26] There is, therefore, an urgent need to promote low carbon development and efforts to decarbonize specific sectors of economic activity at the city level. Also, coastal cities are increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events resulting from climate change. In the coming decades, climate induced extreme events are expected to increase manifold.[27] The World Bank projects that, in cities in developing countries, the number of people exposed to cyclone and earthquake risks will more than double between 2000 and 2050.[28] The increased density of urban populations is also a key risk factor for increased transmission and worsening impact of communicable disease outbreaks, such as the Ebola virus in West Africa and influenza epidemics across the world. Human life and economic losses in urban areas caused by climate change induced and other natural disasters are a result of the high concentration of population and economic activities, as well as of the high levels of vulnerability of people living in poverty, whose residential areas are frequently located on hazardous land, such as industrial waste sites, floodplains, riverbanks and steep slopes. This in turn is exacerbated by poor urban planning and disaster prevention measures as well as inadequate infrastructure;

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[22] UNEP IRP.

[23] Globally, with a population share of just above 50 per cent, cities concentrate between 60 to 80 per cent of energy consumption, and generate as much as 70 per cent of CO_2 emissions.

[24] Between 1950 and 2005, the urban population grew from 29 per cent to 49 per cent of the global population, while global carbon emissions from fossil-fuel burning increased by almost 500 per cent. UNEP, "*Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*", 2011.

[25] IPCC, 2014.

[26] http://www.who.int/topics/air_pollution/en/.

[27] IPCC, 2014.

[28] World Bank, 2013.

k. *Displacement and marginalisation:* Conflicts, forced evictions and land grabbing and, to an extent, natural disasters are displacing growing numbers of people, both those who are internally displaced (IDPs) as well as refugees, into urban areas. Over sixty per cent of refugees, the majority of whom are women and children under 18 years old, for example, now live in towns and cities as opposed to in camps.[29] IDPs and refugees in urban areas encounter many of the same challenges as the local urban poor, with difficulties in accessing the services and opportunities needed to meet their basic food security, nutrition, housing, education and other rights. Large influxes of IDPs and refugees into already congested urban areas also raise serious protection concerns and pose significant challenges to the stability of food systems in affected areas. The sizable displacements into urban areas combined with the mobile nature of urban IDP and refugee populations can create tensions with host communities, which are sometimes ignited or worsened by political discourses. Refugees face additional challenges due to their refugee status. In many countries, there is no legal framework for safeguarding the rights of refugees living outside of camps in urban settings, and the institutional arrangements in towns and cities that are needed in order to provide for their basic needs are often inadequate. Furthermore, the dependence upon regular income for food purchase in contexts where refugees are often not permitted to legally work leaves them especially vulnerable to food insecurity as well as harassment, intimidation and discrimination. Yet refugees contribute to the social, economic and cultural fabric of their host communities. They should really be seen as rights-holders, contributors and partners in the development of cities. Refugees can become key players in city development, growth, resilience and sustainability as bridges between country of asylum and origin, with skills and resources and acting as transnational traders, business partners and investors. Displacement in cities is also caused by forced evictions and gentrification, leading to further ghettoization of the most vulnerable.

l. *Cities are becoming a terrain for violent conflict and crises*: More than 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by state fragility and violent conflict.[30] Fragile states often have the highest rates of urbanization, partly due to the massive population movements from rural to urban centres caused by conflicts. They often experience extraordinary pressures on urban basic services and infrastructure, including housing, food security and nutrition, water and sanitation, as well as health and educational facilities, while lacking the necessary institutional capacity to respond to the demands. They also experience immense pressure to generate jobs and other forms of livelihood. In addition, they are unable to deal with the grievances and conflicts that arise from the lack of services and livelihoods. Many cities are failing to manage the socio-cultural heterogeneity within their populations, nor are they promoting social cohesion in any appreciable ways. Cities that were previously socially and culturally mixed evolve into highly divided urban spaces after conflict, at all levels, making effective urban governance even more difficult to achieve. The demand for services from informal settlements also causes the privatisation of services that the state is unable to deliver and can cause further tensions. In addition, the visibly increasing inequalities in income, wealth and access to services and opportunities in urban centres, and the absence of alternative means of securing livelihoods, all create the kinds of tension that can easily result in violent conflict, including over access to resources. In some cities, the use of urban renewal programmes by public authorities as justification for demolishing informal housing and businesses and shutting down of urban spaces where people can express their opinion and exercise their rights to free speech has often resulted in violent conflict between communities and authorities. Moreover, the largely informal character of urban growth in these countries and cities erodes the legitimacy of the state, creating along with other factors an environment prone to crime and other types of violence not related to conflict. Together, these factors give rise to a new understanding of fragility, where risks and vulnerabilities are concentrated at the city level[31];

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[29] UNHCR, Global Trends, 2014, http://www.unhcr.org/55672e69.html.

[30] OECD estimates that by 2050, 50 per cent of the world's poor will live in such contexts.

[31] de Boer, J., "Resilience and the Fragile City," *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development*, April 2015.

m. *Cities are generating unprecedented levels of multi-layered crime and violence*[32]: Violence can take a multitude of forms in urban environments, including armed violence, extortions, robberies, drug and human trafficking, sexual or gender-based and domestic violence, and the criminal depredation of urban spaces and infrastructure, among other forms of violence. It is perpetrated by numerous actors, including gangs, organized criminal groups, armed individuals and militias, as well as state security and law enforcement agencies. Urban violence has become a major impediment to economic growth and has catastrophic social consequences. Urban violence is also deeply gendered: across all societies, young males are the most common perpetrators, as well as victims, of urban violence; yet, the proportion of women suffering from urban violence as direct victims keeps increasing. Crime and violence affect overwhelmingly the most deprived urban communities, where city governments and law enforcement agencies have often abandoned their public security role, while richer sections of society resort to private security provision, often operating outside of legally-defined boundaries [33]; and

n. *Rapid urban development is generating corruption*: In recent decades, corruption arising from rapid urban development has increased. [34] "Corruption is the abuse of power for private gain"[35] or "...the misuse of entrusted power (by heritage, education, marriage, election, appointment or whatever else) for private gain"[36], and applies to both the public and private sectors. The UN Convention Against Corruption[37] contains no general definition of corruption, but rather, a list of wrongful acts to be criminalized under the national legislation of state-parties. These include: bribery of national public officials (Article 15); bribery of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations (Article 16); embezzlement, misappropriation or other diversion of property by a public official (Article 17); trading in influence (Article 18); abuse of functions (Article 19); illicit enrichment (Article 20); bribery in the private sector (Article 21); embezzlement of property in the private sector (Article 22); laundering of proceeds of crime (Article 23); and obstruction of justice (Article 25). Corruption in urban development is a result of inadequate governance systems. It often manifests itself in the manipulation of public sector procurement systems in major infrastructure projects, thus diverting resources from wider social development for the benefit of those engaged in kick-back payments, bribes and other illicit practices. This often results in lower quality of infrastructure projects, paid for at a higher price, amidst ineffective or even in the absence of monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Urban-based corruption is sometimes in the form of theft or grabbing of public land. Thus corruption results in the denial of the basic rights of ordinary urban residents, including access to land and housing. Bribes are sometimes paid in order to evade urban planning and design standards as well as building regulations, resulting in ill-planned and hazardous urban environments. A common result of this latter practice is the collapse of mutli-storey buildings, usually still under construction. Moreover, corruption is a common phenomenon when dealing with housing and land, speculation, urban renewal and forced evictions in many cases.

9. All these urban challenges are exacerbated by the inefficient form and function of many cities, and the failure to create locally appropriate legal and institutional structures to promote integrated and long-term sustainable urban planning, management and governance. Indeed, poorly planned and managed urbanization — that translates into low densities, excessive separation of land-uses, mismatch between infrastructure provision and residential concentration, and inadequate street networks, among other problems — diminishes the potential of using economies of scale and agglomeration. This causes high transaction costs, loss of opportunities in production and delivery, labour shortages, poor generation of jobs, and various other negative externalities that have adverse effects on the growth and prosperity of cities. Balanced urban and rural development is also essential to ensure positive synergies between urban centres and rural areas.

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[32] Only in 2010, 18,167 homicides were recorded in Central America, mostly in urban areas, according to UNDP. This equates to, on average, a rate of some 42 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, a value that is similar to, or greater than, that of most contemporary armed conflicts.

[33] UN-Habitat, *Global Report on Human Settlements 2007: Enhancing Urban Safety and Security*, Earthscan, London, 2007.

[34] Benito et. al., 2015.

[35] Benito et. al. ibid., p. 2.

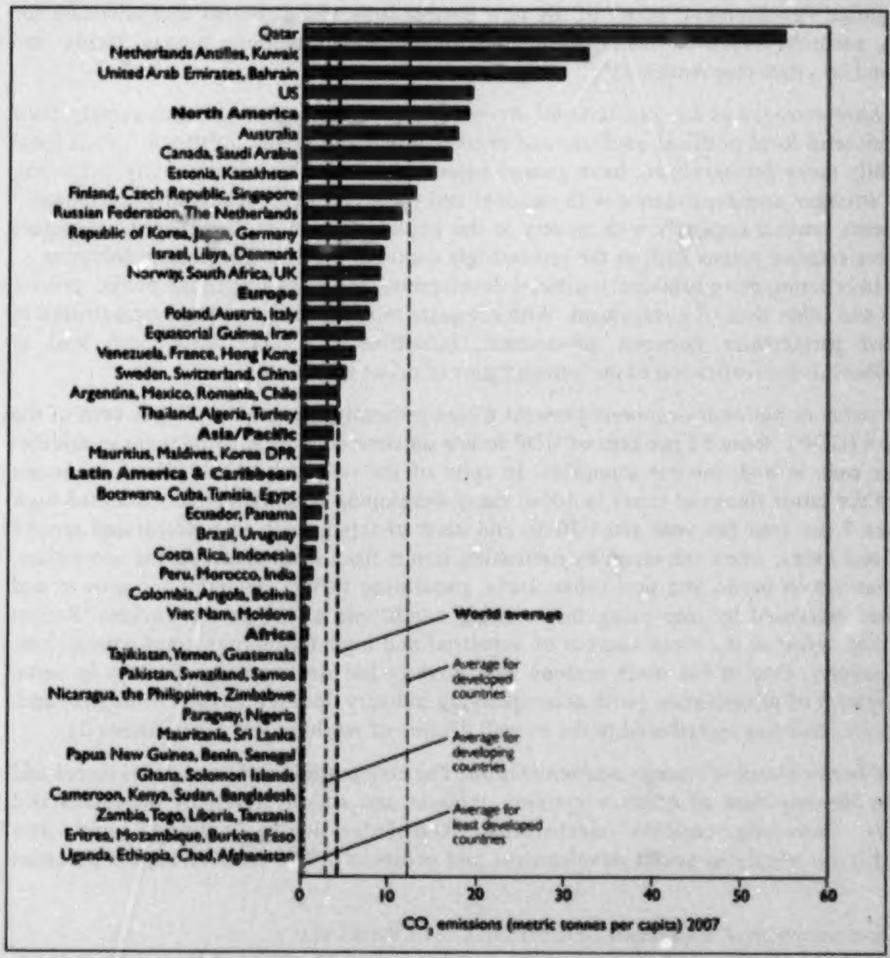
[36] Saxion University website: http://www.corruptie.org/en/corruption/what-is-corruption/.

[37] UNCAC, 2005.

IV – The opportunities offered by urbanization go beyond urban space

10. **The opportunities that exist can be used to harness the transformative force of urbanization** and to activate a pattern of urban growth that can positively impact other spheres of national development. The outcome document of Rio+20, *The Future We Want*, recognizes that, "… if they are well planned and developed … cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies".[38] More recently, and as mentioned earlier, Member States have recognised the important role of urbanization in sustainable development through the inclusion of a stand-alone goal (Goal 11) on cities and human settlements in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable urbanization offers a number of avenues for overall sustainable development as described below.

Figure 2: The higher the urbanization level the higher the GHG emissions — CO_2 emissions per capita in selected countries



Source: UN-Habitat, 2011, op. cit., p. 45.

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[38] United Nations, "The Future We Want", 2012.

a. *Cities have agglomeration benefits that reduce costs of infrastructure and socio-economic services, drive innovation, as well as enhance business development and job creation*: Higher densities that characterise urban settlements combine, through agglomeration and scale economies, greater productivity and innovation with lower costs and reduced environmental impacts, to deliver the benefits of urbanization more sustainably. Well planned and managed cities are in a position to maximize these agglomeration benefits. Investment in infrastructure, including in transport, energy, water and sanitation, as well as in economic and social services such as banking, retail and marketing facilities, as well as schools and public health services, clinics or hospitals, is critical. In fact, well planned urbanization is a cost-effective means of extending infrastructure as well as social and economic services across the entire nation, thus improving the living standards, productivity and overall wellbeing of the whole population;

b. *Cities are becoming prominent players in the global arena*: Increasingly, cities are identified as the locus for change and the venue where policies and actions are mobilized. Cities have been able to forge new linkages among actors and offer innovative solutions that have been included in national agendas with greater possibilities of influencing regional and global development. Many of the new partnerships and networks that advocate for key global issues, such as security, resource management, environmental protection, human rights and sustainability, are created in and by cities (see Annex 1)*[39];

c. *Urban local governments have emerged as key institutional drivers of city/regional growth*: Increasingly, their work, vision and solutions transcend local political confines and exert regional and global influence. Urban local governments today are generally more decentralized, have greater autonomy, flexibility and creativity, including in service delivery, and have stronger interdependence with national and other territorial levels of government.[40] Representative local governments interact regularly with society in the implementation of the urban development agenda, frequently through more creative means such as the increasingly common use of e-governance solutions — a process that has contributed to bringing more balanced territorial development and roles among the public, private and non-governmental sectors and other tiers of government. With adequate infrastructure and legal frameworks in place, locally institutionalized partnerships between government, industries and other actors can lead to considerable growth and contribute to the realization of the human rights of urban inhabitants;

d. *Increased contribution of cities to national economic growth*: Cities presently account for 70 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP): some 55 per cent of GDP in low-income countries, 73 per cent in middle-income countries, and 85 per cent in high-income countries. In spite of the relatively weak global economic growth since the beginning of the latest financial crisis in 2008, many developing countries have witnessed high economic growth rates of over 7 per cent per year since 2010, and most of this growth is concentrated around industrial activities of towns and cities, often enhanced by increasing inputs from rural areas. At the same time, most employment opportunities are in urban and peri-urban areas, generating further potential for growth and prosperity. This can be further enhanced by improving the working conditions of the urban workers. Recent empirical evidence suggests that cities, as the main sources of industrial and high-technology employment, can, in fact, be pathways out of poverty. One of the main reasons why poverty has declined significantly in some countries, such as China, is because of urbanization (with accompanying industry-focused growth strategies) and, due to the large numbers involved, this has contributed to the overall decline of world poverty (see Annex 2);

e. *Cities are and have always been centres of change and innovation*: The concentration of people, resources and activities in cities favours the development of creative systems, thought and action driven by education and learning, innovative milieus, knowledge-creation mechanisms, knowledge-sharing networks and new technological developments that contribute to social development and prosperity. The creative capital of cities has been a catalyst of productivity, particularly in generating local solutions, which have a major role to play in urban transformation. Innovative social and institutional arrangements can contribute to the enhancement of equity, social inclusion and gender equality; improvement of decision-making; more accountable means of carrying out service delivery; more influential civic interest groups; as well as change of the ways of doing business and of using resources. Technological innovations, especially those in the realm of information and communication technologies (ICTs), can help to change the urban space in terms of connectivity, proximity and distance, as well as to improve connectivity with both proximate and more distant rural hinterlands.[41] Annex 3 gives an overview of the role of science, innovation and technology. Additionally, information and communication technologies (ICTs), in general, can play an important role in sustainable urbanization and in making cities 'smarter' and more sustainable. However, it is important to note that research, innovation and entrepreneurial dynamism, including in the informal sector, must be supported by enabling science, technology and innovation policies, as well as an enabling business and investment environment, without which the creative potential of cities will not be unlocked. This requires investment in the framework conditions that allow for new thinking, welcome participation and reduce obstacles that deepen the inequality of opportunities among different groups of society. For example, entrepreneurship training can enhance the employment opportunities of urban youth (see Annex 4). Innovation boosts can also be achieved through smart industrial policies that provide spaces in urban areas such as industrial or science parks, allowing industries to cluster, thus fostering a basis for inter-industrial knowledge exchange and technology learning. Industrial and science parks as well as special economic zones can stimulate productivity, innovation and growth of local industries, and also increase foreign direct investment and related technology exchange with globally more advanced economies. They can also drive transformative structural changes, including the bundling of public services in urban areas; greater efficiency in the use of limited government funding for infrastructure; and generation of jobs and incomes;

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* All annexes referred to in this paper are contained in document CEB/2016/HLCP31/CRP.1/Add.1.

[40] Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing on the role and responsibility of local government in the realization of the right to adequate housing — http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx; Report of the Human Rights Council's Advisory Group — http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/LocalGovernmentAndHR.aspx.

f. *The important role of culture*: Culture, as a factor of social cohesion, inclusiveness and mutual understanding as well as an economic vector, notably through cultural rights, heritage and creative industries[42] (with impact on land use, building techniques, planning, high value know-how and tourism), is increasingly recognized as an asset for the sustainable management of change in the context of development policies. Cities hold much of humanity's tangible and intangible cultural heritage and are places of extraordinary expressions of cultural diversity, including in the food industry (see Annexes 5 and 6);

g. *Urban areas are increasingly connected*: Cities are more and more interconnected, not only through their physical infrastructure such as transportation, power and communication facilities, but also to "distant and multiple locations through financial capital, resource flows and commodity chains".[43] The landscape of urbanization is rapidly changing, affecting the scale, rate, location, form and function[44] of human settlements. Cities that are better connected with each other and with the rest of the world can add to productivity growth and more effective and accessible service delivery through agglomeration effects, particularly when combined with smart industrial policies, thus opening up opportunities to enhance human well-being and prosperity. However, cities and towns must also ensure that their citizens equally benefit from agglomeration factors — that networks of roads and infrastructure reach low income settlements, that urban spaces also provide the poor with productive opportunities and that regulations allow them to be service providers as well. By being physically, socially and economically connected, the expected growth in cities can be better distributed among all stakeholders, including low-income communities;

h. *Some cities are merging into new, dynamic regional spatial configurations*: In some parts of the world, both large and small cities are merging to create urban settlements on a massive scale. These new configurations can take the form of mega-cities, urban corridors and city-regions (see Annex 7).These forms seem to act as nodes where global and regional flows of people, capital, goods, research and science, services and information combine and commingle, resulting in faster economic and demographic growth than that of the countries where they are located. These new configurations are increasingly connected spatially and are functionally bound by their economic, socio-political and environmental linkages. They offer the possibility of reinventing mechanisms of governance, and play an increasing role in the creation and distribution of prosperity far beyond their own specific geographic areas, including in their rural hinterlands;[45]

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[41] UN-Habitat, 2012. Op cit.

[42] Special Edition of the 2013 Creative Economy Report: *Widening Local Development Pathways*, 2013.

[43] Urbanization and Global Environmental Change, "*Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements in the SDGs*", 2013.

[44] Ibid.

i. *Higher interdependence between rural and urban areas*: The geography of rural, urban and peri-urban space is changing. Complex interactions are taking place, influencing social and environmental transformations at the interface of rural and urban areas, including flows of people, products/goods, food, money, information, environmental and other services and waste.[46] The urban-rural linkages approach that integrates urban and rural and focuses on the rural-urban nexus, in contradistinction to a conventional view of urban versus rural, is gaining more acceptance. In this approach, cities can, with the right policy environment, stimulate growth and development in rural areas and be vehicles for job creation and poverty reduction, while at the same time rural areas are the source of ecosystem services that cities require, as well as of the food and other agricultural inputs they need for both nutrition and industrial production. The provision of strategic infrastructure, basic services and amenities in rural areas and service centres, including for smallholder farmers, and better urban-rural interconnectivity and flow of information have the potential of contributing to the creation of economic opportunities, reduction of rural communities' vulnerability, enhancing the prospects for equity and promoting regional and national sustainability;

j. *Adequate housing brings an opportunity for social, economic and spatial integration*: More than half of city space is composed of residential areas. Appropriate urban planning policies and programmes geared toward the fulfilment of the right to adequate housing for all contribute to efforts by countries to comply with their international obligations. Along with appropriate urban design, housing can contribute to increasing densities and enhancing economies of agglomeration. The housing sector can improve social integration, urban safety and security and enhance quality of life when housing is affordable, built to provide adequate protection from weather elements, equipped with adequate services and amenities, and linked to proximate livelihood opportunities — all of these in the context of the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing. It can also stimulate the construction sector, generate healthy and safe jobs and promote local economic development through backward and forward linkages. Housing is not only a place for living, but often also a place of work, especially in the cities and towns of developing countries. Well-designed housing units favour spatial integration that in turn reduces land and energy consumption and diminish the cost of infrastructure provision, including public and non-motorised transport;

k. *Tourism increasingly constitutes a significant component in the economy, social life and the geography of many cities*: Tourism can help reduce poverty and support sustainable development in cities. It creates not only economic opportunities for local residents, but can also be an important tool for transforming the urban landscape and improving the worldwide reputation of individual cities. Tourism, if carried out in a sustainable and accountable way, is also an important means for the rejuvenation of cities through infrastructure improvements, creation of a skilled labour force, stimulation of local business entrepreneurship, attraction of other industries and services, and creation of local amenities and recreational facilities. The regeneration process not only builds a quality visitor experience but, if benefits are equally redistributed, also safeguards and enhances the quality of life for the local community (see Annex 8 and also Annexes 5 and 6). Within this context, urban land-use plans and management policies must give full consideration to the needs of tourism development, including the spatial distribution of tourism attractions, promotion of accessibility of tourist destinations and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage;

l. *New comprehensive human rights-based approach to urbanization*: Human rights are advancing in cities, including with regards to adequate housing, tenure security and water and sanitation. The respect for all human rights and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the responsible governance of tenure, gender equality and women's empowerment, the rule of law, and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development was reaffirmed in the outcome document of Rio + 20.[47] Likewise, key documents drafted as inputs to the post-2015 development agenda stress that new goals and targets "need to be grounded in respect for universal human rights"[48] and based "on the values of equity, solidarity and human rights."[49] A human rights-based approach to urbanization and the progressive realization of human rights in the city is also gaining more traction in many cities and countries[50]. A significant challenge to the full enjoyment of human rights in urban areas is the rise of racism and discrimination. Multiple forms of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance have emerged in cities, leading to the marginalization, exclusion and exploitation of groups and individuals. The increasingly important role played by city authorities in combating discrimination, through their proximity to populations, their autonomy, networks and resources, is crucial to the development of effective solutions. Collaboration and exchange between cities through initiatives such as the International Coalition of Cities against Racism can further enhance urban action to combat discrimination;[51]

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[45] UN-Habitat, *State of the World's Cities Report: Bridging the Urban Divide*, Earthscan, London, 2010.
[46] UN-Habitat, 2010. Ibid.

m. *Urbanization offers many advantages for women's social and economic growth and their equal participation and rights with men*: On the social front, greater cultural diversity found in urban areas can provide an enabling environment to deconstruct social norms, entrenched gender stereotypes and traditions or customs that hold women back and perpetuate gender discrimination against women, girls and youth in general. Furthermore, cities may offer better social and infrastructure services, such as water, transport, education and health services, including sexual and reproductive health, and this is where women can more easily access information facilities and communication technologies as well as opportunities for practicing sports, recreation and cultural activities. On the economic front, there are growing opportunities in cities for women to engage in highly paid professional jobs or dynamic sectors such as manufacturing and services. Women's equal access to productive resources and decent jobs is critical not only for their empowerment and for furthering the gender equality goal, but it also has positive multiplier effects for a range of key development goals, including poverty eradication. Women's economic empowerment has proven to generate both micro-level efficiency results through increased household productivity and macro-efficiency, as evidenced by the positive correlation between indicators of gender equality and economic growth;[52]

n. *Urbanization offers many opportunities to deal with climate change and disaster risk reduction*: Cities are well positioned to assess their risks and vulnerabilities, and to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies through appropriate urban planning and design, building regulations and materials as well as construction technology, including in the retro-fitting of both buildings and infrastructure (see Annex 9 and also Annex 1) and initiatives such as the WHO Safe Hospitals Index. Policies that promote compact cities with higher densities and more mixing of residential and commercial uses can certainly contribute to climate goals because of reduced per capita rates of resource use and greenhouse gas emissions, and can also bring a number of co-benefits. For example, reducing car transport and increasing access to public transport and bicycle paths will reduce morbidity and mortality due to air pollution. Ecocity design and smart sustainable city approaches can also achieve the same results (see Annexes 10 and 11). The economies of scale, as well as proximity and concentration of enterprises and innovation in cities, or agglomeration economies, make it cheaper and easier to take actions to minimize both emissions and climate hazards. Implementing the many provisions of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as they relate to cities can reduce the impact of disasters. Green growth through increasing use of renewable energy, growth in environmental industries such as solid waste management and recycling industries, as well as the decoupling of urban growth from resource use can have positive impacts on climate change. Well planned and managed urbanization offers significant opportunities for disaster risk reduction and management, climate resilience and lessening of the vulnerability of people living in poverty. In this regard, it is important to promote and support green jobs;

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[47] United Nations, 2012. Op. cit.

[48] United Nations, Realizing the Future We Want for All, Contours for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, UN Task Team Report, 2013a.

[49] United Nations, the Secretary-General Report *A Life of Dignity for All*, 2013.

[50] Urban Jonsson, "Promoting Human Rights-Based Approach and Sustainable Development", UN-Habitat, 2014.

[51] www.unesco.org/shs/citiesagainstracism.

[52] UN DESA (2009). World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. New York, United Nations.

o. *Well-planned and managed urbanization offers many opportunities for increasing collaboration between urban planners, health and non-health sectors to reduce health inequalities and increase wellbeing*. Acting on health inequities requires an understanding of their nature and distribution, causes, engagement of communities in collecting and interpreting data, as well as prioritization of actions. Undertaking exercises to bring together urban planners, health and non-health city departments increases the opportunity to collectively plan and act to reduce a number of inequities as well as create synergistic action for each sector. The WHO Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (Urban HEART)[53], used in over 60 countries, along with an Urban Health Index[54], rely on core sets of indicators across sectors to map disaggregated patterns across neighbourhoods, and diseases or conditions. Acting on inequities requires concerted action as reflected in recent reports by the WHO-UN-Habitat 'Hidden Cities report', UNICEF's '2012 State of the World's Children Report' [55], Save the Children's '2015 Urban Disadvantage and Maternal Health Report[56], the '2014 UNAIDS Cities Report'[57] and the '2015 World Migration Report'.[58] Changes in the built and social environments have demonstrable impacts on reducing many non-communicable and infectious diseases, improving environmental conditions, and reducing injuries. Leadership shown by cities as diverse as New York, Liverpool, Seoul, and Cape Town through engaging urban planners and health professionals, have resulted in successes in areas such as reducing obesity, tobacco use, as well as cases of tuberculosis.

p. *Cities show strong potentials for establishing the basis of positive state-building dynamics*: Cities in 'failed states' may be easier to fix than the states in which they are located. The political dynamics of running a city are more favourable than those of a whole fragile country. In most countries, cities' compact size and blurring of cultural and other identities make elections of city governments more a test of competence and pragmatism in urban governance than a contest between different ethnic, religious-based or ideological narratives as found at national level. In many countries, officials at city-level can be held more easily accountable than those in central government. The concentration of elites (political, social, intellectual and economic) means also the capacity to challenge the bargains on which political settlements rest when these are not sustainable. Cities in post-conflict settings can become critical spaces for institutionalized forms of political debate and participation that help build inclusive institutions for managing conflict and transitional justice mechanisms; and

q. *Urban violence can be successfully addressed by tackling its root causes and through integrated preventative strategies*: Despite high levels of armed violence, encouraging results can be seen in the reduction of such violence in certain urban communities. Multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary initiatives at the city government level have resulted in the design of city community-based security and social cohesion plans that extend the reach of law enforcement, improve response to criminal incidents and include close cooperation with civil society to prevent armed violence (see Annex 12). These initiatives also tackle different dimensions of urban life that are critical to creating safer environments, including urban design for crime prevention, job-creation, education, health, addressing cultural needs and access to justice. They are also reinforced by programmes to reduce violence in the domestic and educational spheres. Violence prevention becomes closely linked to urban planning and how greater social diversity can be generated through transport, services, housing and economic policies that break ghettoization dynamics.

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[53] Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (Urban HEART). Kobe: World Health Organization; 2010 (http://www.who.int/kobe_centre/measuring/urbanheart/en/, accessed 16 September 2015.

[54] Urban Health Index. Kobe: World Health Organization; 2015 (http://www.who.int/kobe_centre/measuring/innovations/urban_health_index/en/ accessed 16 September 2015.

[55] http://www.unicef.org/sowc/files/SOWC_2012-Main_Report_EN_21Dec2011.pdf.

[56] http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.8585863/k.9F31/State_of_the_Worlds_Mothers.htm?msource=wenlpstw0515.

[57] http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/JC2687_TheCitiesReport_en.pdf.

[58] https://www.iom.int/world-migration-report-2015.

V – There is a need for a UN system-wide approach to sustainable urban development

11. To effectively address the above-mentioned challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of urbanization, **the United Nations, in its role as the 'guardian' of the international development agenda, requires a coherent and coordinated approach to urbanization**. This approach should recognize urbanization, including the industrialization process that often accompanies it, as a force on its own, which, alongside other drivers of development such as agriculture and rural development, can be harnessed and steered through policy, planning and design, regulatory instruments as well as other human actions to contribute towards national sustainable development. Moreover, the challenges posed by urbanization have global ramifications that, if not addressed adequately, could jeopardize chances of achieving sustainable development. It is therefore necessary to shift cities and towns onto a sustainable development path.

12. Urbanization, as a process, affects the whole continuum of human settlements: from rural villages and service centres, through small and medium-sized towns, to cities and megacities. Urbanization can contribute to a positive dynamic of rural transformation through the equitable and balanced provision of improved physical infrastructure, access to modern energy, social and economic services. The whole continuum of settlements contributes in different ways to national growth and sustainable development.

13. Habitat III offers an excellent opportunity for the UN system organizations to reflect on the role of urbanization in sustainable development and to come up with a system-wide approach that is guided by the content and spirit of international human rights instruments, including on women's rights, gender equality, and the rights of the disabled. Similarly, dialogue on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial to developing a shared perspective on sustainable cities and human settlements, for discussing the challenges and opportunities that urbanization offers and for synergistic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. These global frameworks and discussions, as well as the work of the High Level Committee on Programmes, are excellent platforms for forging agreement on a new vision of sustainable urbanization and the main principles and characteristics that a sustainable city should have, including the mechanisms that are needed to induce a drastic change towards sustainable urbanization. However, this UN consensus should also be informed by the views of other stakeholders, especially cities and local authorities, as well as civil society.

14. **The UN system and the international community recognize the importance of and high priority that should be accorded to transformative change.** This is a critical juncture at which the dynamic forces of urbanization must be used to make a giant leap towards sustainability. It is clear that continuing along the current patterns of urbanization is no longer an option. Cities and towns can play a greater role in the sustainable development agenda, and for that they need to be better understood and integrated into the changing global discourse on sustainable development. The UN can ride the wave of change by promoting a 'new urban agenda' in order to match the world's evolving development goals and meet the current and emerging urban challenges. The 'new urban agenda' should promote sustainable cities and other human settlements that are environmentally sustainable and resilient; socially inclusive, safe and violence-free; economically productive; and better connected to and contributing towards sustained rural transformation. Such a vision should be fully in line with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, most particularly Goal 11 on cities and human settlements, and should enable the advancement of the underpinning principle of equity.

15. For this New Urban Agenda to induce transformative change in cities and countries, both developed and developing, it needs to give explicit attention to both **the principles** that can guide this change and the **levers** to support the pursuit of the new urbanization vision. In other words, the New Urban Agenda needs to address the longer-term, structural and social factors, including beliefs and behaviours that hinder the possibility of transformative change, using clear guiding principles. It also needs to respond to existing challenges and opportunities to promote sustainable urban development through appropriate levers of transformative change.

16. **Ten guiding principles** can steer the vision of such a new agenda towards transformative sustainable development: universality, human rights, equity, integration and synergy, democratic participation, environmental

sustainability, learning and sharing of knowledge, promotion of urban metabolism, promotion of solutions that work for fragile cities, and data revolution.

i. Promoting a new urbanization vision that is universal and adaptable to different national and local circumstances: Work towards ensuring universality of the new urban agenda, given that the key challenges of urbanization are shared by all countries. Some of the shared challenges are increasing urban poverty and inequality, high levels of unemployment and underemployment, especially among the youth, climate change and increasing vulnerability to disasters, as well as urban-based social and political upheavals. The new urbanization vision should promote co-benefits and sharing of solutions to these challenges and of ways to take advantage of the opportunities that urbanization offers, within the context of north-south and south-south cooperation, and of the normative role of the UN. Global urban networks such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and C40 Climate Leadership Group, facilitated by new information and communication technology, could play an important role in promoting universal urbanization principles. It will be important for this universal agenda to be adaptable to different national priorities and urbanization levels.

ii. Promoting a new urbanization vision with mechanisms and procedures that respect, protect and promote human rights and the rule of law: Ensure that both the desirable outcome (sustainable cities and other human settlements) and the process to achieve this outcome take account of the content and intent of international human rights instruments. That process should be guided by an equitable vision of urban development which addresses a number of basic rights, including access to: decent work; diverse, safe and nutritious food; adequate and affordable health care; adequate housing; clean water and adequate sanitation; education; basic social services and socio-economic safety nets; protection from crime and violence (safety and security); transparent institutions and justice systems; as well as participatory public decision making mechanisms. It should also be guided by international instruments such as those on persons with disabilities and on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Pursuit of an equitable vision of urban development will contribute to the progressive realization of human rights in urban centres and the expansion of open and inclusive democratic spaces as well as of opportunities and prosperity for all urban residents. The advancement and justiciability of all human rights, including economic, civil, social, cultural and political rights as well as enhanced protection from crime and violence, is essential for development and poverty eradication, and requires responsive, accountable and legitimate public institutions guided by the rule of law, including at the local level.

iii. Promoting equitable urban development and inclusive urban growth: Transformative change can occur when equity considerations, including gender equality and the prioritization of the needs of the most vulnerable, are brought to the centre of urban development and guide informed decision-making that enhances the lives of all city dwellers.[59] This can happen when all levels of government and development partners adopt equity-based approaches, not only for legal and ethical reasons, but also because they realize these approaches are cost-effective.[60] In particular, the promotion of access to adequate housing and urban basic services is essential to building 'cities for all', as it enables all urban dwellers to live and participate in a meaningful manner within their towns and cities. This also requires moving away from the commodification of housing, land and services to the recognition of their social value. In addition, urban processes leading to inequalities and marginalization, such as unbridled speculation over housing and land, unaffordability of basic services and gentrification, need to be addressed.

iv. Promoting integration and synergy in the implementation of a new urbanization vision: Fully sustainable urban development and potential co-benefits cannot be achieved without integration and synergistic action in urban planning and management so as to address, simultaneously, the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainability. This will ensure that different sectoral objectives, such as those on land and housing, environment, transport, water and sanitation, health, education, industry and employment, are addressed simultaneously because of their many inter-linkages. This is also necessary for eliminating duplication and waste in investment in the different sectors. Spatially, the new urbanization vision should address rural-urban linkages in a balanced and equitable way, the regional impacts of towns and cities and the multi-level governance and planning requirements of urban development within the context of metropolitan regions, urban-rural regions and other emerging configurations such as urban corridors. Integration also entails joint, or coordinated, planning and implementation by different agencies at the local, regional, national and global levels. In this context, the empowerment and participation of local governments and other levels of subnational government is crucial. For the UN system organizations, this implies joint planning and implementation of development assistance in the area of sustainable urbanization, especially at the national and municipal levels.

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[59] UN-Habitat, Concept Paper, World Urban Forum 7, 2014.

[60] United Nations, Realizing the Future we Want for All, op cit.

v. Promoting the empowerment of civil society, expanding democratic participation and reinforcing collaboration: Empowering civil society, expanding democratic participation and reinforcing collaboration enables transformative change, leading to a strong and well-organized civil society; equal and balanced participation between men and women, young and old; as well as deliberate inclusion and participation of marginalized groups, such as people living in poverty, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrants, minorities and other historically excluded groups. Inclusion and participation may also be achieved by upholding and promoting cultural diversity. This requires new avenues for political organization, social participation and the expression of cultural diversity, so as to influence decision-making and change policy outcomes for the benefit of the majority. It also requires an effective local platform that allows for genuine and efficient collaboration between different levels of government and interested groups, including civil society and the private sector, and that is capable of steering urban growth towards a more sustainable path. In particular, community media should be used to enhance public debate and participation fostered by international standards that respect freedom of expression and journalistic independence.

vi. Promoting green cities and environmental sustainability: Transformative change occurs when a critical connection is established between individuals and communities, science, environment, industry, economic growth, urban planning and governance with regards to issues such as land and resource use, energy systems and consumption, pollution, rural-urban linkages, material flows, industrial development, land fragmentation, disaster risk reduction and climate change, and when urban development brings co benefits. The need to integrate green growth considerations, 'decoupling' of urban growth from increased resource use and its environmental impacts, greening of urban centres and peri-urban areas, green training of urban enterprises and workers, and environmental strategies in long-term urban planning and management of cities[61] are fundamental aspects of this guiding principle.

vii. Promoting urban metabolism as a corner-stone of urban planning and management and a fundamental aspect of urban resilience: Cities are subject to complex dynamics caused by the process of urban metabolism which itself provides the necessary framework to understand the interactions of natural and human systems within a specific space. Within this dynamic environment, the ability of cities to develop in a sustainable way as well as the resilience of cities to withstand the impacts of natural and social evolution and change depend predominantly on the flow and efficient management of resources. This flow of resources at the city level is furthermore affected by: (i) the behaviour of economic agents; (ii) the consumption patterns of individuals and organizations (public and private); (iii) the nature of stakeholders' participation in decision making; and (iv) systems of infrastructure (both "soft" and "hard") and technology. This is why how cities manage their resources has a critical impact both on the global and local environment, as well as on the well-being of the urban population that benefits from using the resources and, at the end, on the ability of the cities to develop in a sustainable way. Cities need to set specific targets to use resources more efficiently and formulate plans to achieve this and provide an enabling framework to spur resource efficiency as well as micro and city level innovations.

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[61] UNEP, Integrating the Environment in Urban Planning and Management, Cities Alliance, 2013.

viii. Promoting solutions that work for fragile cities: Over the past 40 years, the urban population in lower income and fragile countries has increased by an astonishing 326 per cent[62]. With these growth rates projected to continue, it is certain that the humanitarian crises of tomorrow will be more urban than rural and it is also certain that, today, the urban centres of fragile and conflict-affected countries are some of the world's most vulnerable zones.[63] To be effective, humanitarian, peace building, and development actors need to develop effective and feasible gender-responsive options to reduce the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of urban populations in fragile cities most at risk to multiple and interlocking crises. National and municipal governments in these contexts are demanding tools such as for preparedness and early warning systems to be able to respond to these overlapping risks. Yet, current responses are limited and international organizations, such as the World Bank and the United Nations, remain ill-equipped to assist. To change this reality, the United Nations University and the World Bank are collaborating in a project on *Resilience and the Fragile City* funded by the UN-World Bank Fragility and Conflict Partnership Trust Fund. This project will develop frameworks to accurately understand vulnerability and resilience in disaster and violence prone cities and identify feasible and practical solutions that can reduce the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of urban populations most at risk to multiple and interlocking crises.

ix. Promoting innovations that facilitate learning and the sharing of knowledge and developing capacities: Transformative change, whether in urban or rural areas, depends on social and institutional innovations that facilitate participatory learning. It happens when a supportive learning environment and supportive science, technology and innovation policies are established, people's and institutions' capacities are developed, including those of the private sector and industries, and appropriate tools are employed; and when long-term collective, collaborative and cumulative learning is connected to knowledge in support of the achievement of desirable outcomes and the monitoring of goals and targets. Educational as well as scientific and cultural institutions are integral to this process, as well as to the future of cities, in particular because of the opportunities they offer young people seeking a better life.

x. Promoting a global data revolution: For the effective and results-based implementation of the New Urban Agenda, with the above-mentioned guiding principles providing direction, and within the framework of Goal 11 and other goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relevant to urbanization, there will be a need to put in place a global monitoring mechanism with clear indicators, adaptable to the national and sub-national levels, that provides a general framework for periodic assessments of the different dimensions of urbanization and the state of cities and towns, including all forms of inequity. Furthermore, the development of human rights indicators at city level is an important tool for assessing progress and addressing accountability in urban areas. It is important that data collected on these aspects of urbanization is disaggregated by age, gender, location, income, ethnicity, etc., and that it be collected in a participatory manner. In addition, alternatives to traditional data gathering, including those generated by communities (like participatory enumerations) and the civil society should be encouraged. This will allow cities and towns, countries, and the international community to measure progress and identify possible setbacks and constraints, thus pre-empting unintended developments.

17. The New Urban Agenda can only be successful in achieving its objectives if these ten guiding principles actively underpin and structure urban growth and development, and if they functionally and operationally guide the way urban societies function.

VI – A 'new urban agenda' for transformative change

18. **The proposed New Urban Agenda should represent a paradigm shift towards a new urbanization vision** that can better respond to the challenges of our age, optimizing resources to harness future potentials. This new

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[62] IDMC 2014.

[63] de Boer, John, "Resilience and the Fragile City", Stability: International Journal of Security and Development, April 27, 2015 available at: http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.fk/.

agenda should be universal, rights-based, sectorally and spatially integrative, inclusive, equitable, people-centred, green and measurable. It should also have the possibility of articulating different scales, from the neighbourhood to the global level, and diverse human settlements, from the rural village and rural service centre, through the small and medium-sized town, to the city and megacity.

19. **The contours of the New Urban Agenda should revolve around major issues that are linked to urban sustainability**. A number of levers of change, or effective means, could be deployed to effect the adoption of a new urbanization approach that could have an impact on the sustainability of national development. In this manner, the New Urban Agenda should make a critical connection between urban sustainability and sustainable development at large.

20. Ten key levers of change are presented here as a UN system input to the New Urban Agenda, the document expected to come out of Habitat III. These levers, which may help to achieve the desired outcomes of sustainable urbanization and sustainable development in general, need to be adapted to different circumstances, as there is no one-size-fits-all solution. More specifically, these levers of change have to be adapted and refined locally, nationally and regionally, taking into consideration the needs and specific circumstances of cities and towns, and the level of peace, state-building and development of the countries where they are to be deployed.

21. Once deployed, the levers may increase economic productivity and enhance equitable growth, improve the rights and wellbeing of the population, improve inclusion, gender equality and accountability in urban governance, and create multiplier effects that spread across space and through different types of human settlements — from remote rural villages and rural service centres, through small and medium-sized towns, to cities and megacities. Their effective implementation will determine the actual form and content of urbanization, in the process steering urban growth, influencing land-use markets, forming the basis for managing public spaces and other common goods, and identifying opportunities for multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral solutions. Fundamentally, the transformative agenda needs to focus on all people and to maximize their engagement.

22. The proposed **ten levers of transformative change** are described in the paragraphs below. When cities are not well-planned and governed, and when municipal finance systems as well as the urban economy are weak, addressing all of the economic, social and environmental needs and challenges highlighted earlier in this paper cannot be done effectively. Effective urban planning, governance, including legislation, and municipal finance systems, as well as a strong urban economy are the foundation of sustainable urbanization. Together, they constitute strategic conditions for sustainable urban development. The first five levers of transformative change address these strategic conditions. The remaining five levers address the needs of urban households (the deliverables of successful urbanization), gender equality and women's empowerment as well as sustainable use of resources at the city level, all of which are critical to transformative change.

i. Developing and implementing integrated national urban policies: This lever amalgamates the dispersed energy and potential of urban centres within a national system of cities and spatial or territorial planning. It establishes synergetic connections between the dynamics of urbanization and the overall process of national development, recognizing the importance of fostering mutually reinforcing rural-urban linkages and leveraging the rural-urban nexus for development[64] It builds linkages between sectors, defines the broad parameters within which the transformative force of urbanization is activated and steered, coordinates the work of different tiers of government (local, regional and national), establishes the incentives for nudging economic and social agents towards more sustainable practices, and provides a framework for the allocation of resources accordingly.

ii. Strengthening urban legislation and systems of governance: Laws, institutions, regulatory systems, and systems of governance bound by human rights and the rule of law integrate a composite set of factors which embody the operational principles, as well as the stability of organizational structures and institutional and social relationships that underpin the process of urbanization. Laws, policies and governance systems must address all relevant economic, social and cultural rights, as well as guard against corruption[65], crime and violence; must not discriminate in substance or in practice; and must reflect the inputs of the population and should be equitable, ensuring that efforts are geared towards the most in need so as to avoid reinforcement of inequalities. With respect to corruption, it is important to put in place or strengthen anti-corruption frameworks for urban development projects — financed from both public and private sector funds — that may illicitly extract resources from ordinary citizens and exacerbate the situation of vulnerable groups, especially in terms of their access to housing, water, sanitation, health, education and other basic rights and services. This requires implementation of enhanced preventive mechanisms that guarantee transparency and accountability, including mechanisms for the active participation of civil society and the private sector in monitoring the implementation of urban public projects. Balancing regulations with incentives provides potential "win-win" opportunities for urban planning and development. These governance elements provide the medium through which the transformative force of urbanization is nurtured and deployed. This lever creates the normative basis for action and realization.

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[64] (IFAD, 'Leveraging the Rural-Urban Nexus for Development', IFAD Post-2015 Policy Brief 1, Rome, not dated — http://www.ifad.org/pub/post2015/english/1.pdf).

iii. Harnessing the urban economy, creating employment opportunities and improving existing working conditions for all: This lever refers to the very foundation of urbanization and the basis for socio-economic transformation and accumulation. To provide adequate employment, reduce poverty and generate enough taxes to fund public infrastructure and services, cities must be economically productive. Many urban areas and regions therefore require gender-responsive economic regeneration and renewal programmes, cluster development and industrial zone strategies, as well as access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport for all. Others also require productivity and structural diversification plans, knowledge sharing and technology learning platforms, as well as employment generation and income-growth programmes for vulnerable groups, including some targeted at youth and women as well as at newly arrived immigrants. These can have positive multiplier effects in various development areas, especially when redistributive mechanisms are put in place, including extension of public spaces and public procurement for people's livelihoods. Adequate gender-responsive urban design maximizes agglomeration economies that are needed to develop the local urban economy and reduce the inequality of opportunities among different groups of society.

iv. Strengthening municipal finance: This lever is about realigning fiscal authority and responsibility, i.e. achieving the right balance between different levels of government (municipal, subnational/regional and national) in terms of fiscal authority, responsibility and revenue sharing; improving systems of revenue collection; designing new financial mechanisms; and improving budget management and transparency, including through capacity-building and institutionalization. It is also about the proper use of the urban space, legal mechanisms and taxation instruments that reinforce capacities of local authorities and land-value sharing strategies. It also refers to innovations in financing, including through endogenous local solutions, leveraging the statutory role of planning to mobilize public and private resources and enhancing local government credit-worthiness and accountability.

v. Reinvigorating territorial planning and urban design and optimizing agglomeration economies: New planning methods and systems can contribute to changing the city's structure, form and functionality towards more compact, integrated, connected and sustainable solutions that optimize agglomeration economies. They can also contribute to the resilience of cities and environmental sustainability of urban activities, including the conservation and use of biodiversity and ecosystem services inside and outside the city. Cities that increase densities (where these are low), promote enterprise linkages, provide adequate logistics infrastructure, adopt environmentally sound production and consumption methods, encourage social diversity and mixed-land uses, foster inclusiveness, protect commons, consider the possible impacts of climate change induced and other natural hazards, and that promote adequate and safe public spaces as well as vibrant streets can better address current urbanization challenges. So too can re-establishing joint gender-responsive urban planning and public health initiatives, as well as initiatives with other sectors. As urban centres do not exist independently from their surroundings, with the constant and in some cases reciprocal flows of people, goods, natural resources and services between urban centres and their rural hinterlands, territorial planning at the urban region level is necessary for sustainable development.

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[65] UN Convention Against Corruption, 2005.

vi. Promoting universal access to quality basic services: An urban development vision with adequate policies and institutional frameworks aiming at fulfilling States national and international obligations, including social protection systems or safety nets, for promoting universal access to urban basic services, such as sustainable and affordable housing, nutritious food, water and sanitation, health care coverage, education and training facilities, and basic income security, especially for urban dwellers living in poverty, including those living in rural areas close to cities and towns (i.e. in urban-rural regions), is another lever of change. It requires integrated and gender-sensitive planning, innovative solutions for sustainable energy services, adequate financing and investments, effective partnerships with the private sector and all relevant stakeholders, technological support that promotes green economic and industrial development, resilience and climate change considerations, and a scheme that retrofits and rehabilitates existing infrastructure. Basic services and infrastructure strategies, including green infrastructure, transport and mobility, need to be people-centred and to be clearly articulated to housing programmes and land-use plans, as well as to prioritize vulnerable and marginalized groups. For the latter to happen, urban policy makers need to understand the patterns and causes of inequities (including poverty), the needs of and risks faced by people living in poverty and marginalized populations, and their solutions, to seriously consider their rights, safety and well-being at work and at home, as well as to appreciate their contribution to cities.

vii. Promoting adequate housing for all income categories of urban residents: This lever considers re-positioning housing as a pillar of sustainable urban development in such a way that it contributes to building cities that are economically viable, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. It requires an understanding of housing which goes beyond viewing it as a mere commodity and which recognizes its social function, as well as its link with other rights such as security of tenure and employment. It requires equal access to land for different social groups as well as men and women, without discrimination and prioritizing the most in need, effective land-use plans, adequate legal and institutional frameworks, sustainable building technologies, responsible construction industries, and predictable financial mechanisms for affordable, habitable and accessible housing, all of which should also take into account that housing is often a place of work (home-based enterprises). This contributes to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living.

viii. Strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment:[66] National and local governments should develop and strengthen their capacity to integrate a gender perspective into all their urban policies and programmes so as to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and to improve the welfare and human rights of all women and girls. Efforts should be made to effectively collect urban data disaggregated by gender and age, and to eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence through prevention measures. Specific attention should be given to women's and girls' safety in private and urban public spaces. In particular, cities should develop approaches and standards for city-wide implementation of gender mainstreaming in all areas, including the design of public spaces, housing, transportation and street lighting. Increasing the voice and participation of women in urban public life is vital for ensuring that women's issues are taken into consideration in urban development agendas.

ix. Placing culture at the heart of sustainable urban development[67]: Integrating culture and cultural rights in urban development and/or urban regeneration policies contributes to efficient management of change in cities towards more sustainable social, economic and human development through improved understanding of the socio-cultural context of urban spaces. It also contributes to better job-creation opportunities, social cohesion, education and promotion of cultural diversity. Sustainable and resilient cities are those which preserve their urban heritage as a factor of social identity, safeguard their intangible cultural heritage and the collective memory as factors of identity and dialogue among communities, and promote the creative industries and the creative economy, at the same time understanding the dynamism and evolution of culture, partly through international migration. Raising awareness on respect for diversity in urban spaces, free from all forms of discrimination, should be a core concern of city-level authorities. Placing culture at the heart of sustainable urban development provides a solid baseline for better understanding of each socio-cultural context and is a means for ensuring better linkages between local and global needs.

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[66] Based on UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 24/4, "Gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development", 19 April 2013.

[67] UN Resolutions 65/166 (2010) and 66/208 (2011) adopted by the General Assembly on culture and development.

x. Promoting resource efficiency and circular economy at city level: More efficient delivery of urban services, including management of resources flowing to, from, and within cities can contribute to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. Promoting sustainable lifestyles in urban areas and fostering behavioural change can reduce environmental impacts and have cross-sectoral influences (e.g. on buildings, tourism, food, procurement, etc.). To this extent, a circular economy could help cities realise the potential of resource efficiency. A circular economy at the city level is not only about recycling but also about reusing, remanufacturing, recovering, repairing and refurbishing. One of the best pathways to operationalize a circular economy at the city level is by establishing new markets of a sharing economy. Such an economy is based on product-service systems, sharing and swapping practices that decouple ownership of an asset from its use, while reinstalling social interactions and trust within a community of people having similar interests. Sharing practices and models are typically less resource intensive, as fewer products are produced to provide the same service to more people. New markets, new interactions and new lifestyles will emerge from sharing practices.

VII – Implementing the new urban agenda through multi-stakeholder partnership

23. Promoting integration in the implementation of a new urbanization vision in order to address the environmental, social and economic objectives of sustainability, which have many inter-linkages, is one of the ten guiding principles suggested earlier in this paper. Integration requires not only a shared vision of sustainable urbanization among the different UN system organizations, but also partnership in the implementation of that vision.

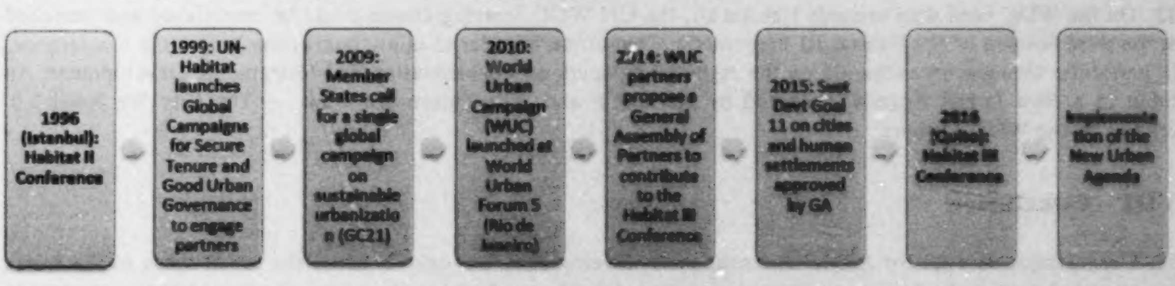
24. In response to a directive of the HLCP to pilot issue-based platforms and coalitions within the on-going efforts on forging a common vision of urbanization and its contribution to sustainable development, the ideas below suggest a way forward in fostering multi-stakeholder engagement in support of actions to achieve Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the expected outcome of Habitat III — a New Urban Agenda. More specifically, suggestions are made on how the World Urban Campaign (WUC), anchored at UN-Habitat, could be used for this purpose as an implementation platform. A brief historical description of the WUC is made first, followed by concrete proposals on how the Campaign could be strengthened by including the participation of UN system organizations.

25. The need for a concerted and coherent approach to urbanization has been a concern to UN-Habitat, particularly since the Habitat II Conference (Istanbul, 1996), resulting in an inclusive Habitat Agenda, calling for partnerships and the enablement of non-State actors to achieve sustainable urbanization. This strong demand was addressed by a number of projects and accompanied by global campaigns to engage non-governmental partners to jointly advocate on sustainable urbanization and create synergies between urban stakeholders. Two global campaigns were launched in 1999 focusing on urban governance and secure tenure, anchored at the country level. The concept of a single forward looking strategic campaign was later expressed by Member States at the 21st session of UN-Habitat's Governing Council (2007) calling for a single platform to promote engagement and provide coherence on sustainable urbanization issues. In 2009, a single campaign — the Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanization, renamed World Urban Campaign — was launched to bring together urban stakeholders in order to elevate urban policies, sharing tools and campaigning on themes related to sustainable urbanization. Since its launch, the WUC is part of UN-Habitat's work programme and budget and is governed by a Steering Committee, composed of UN-Habitat partner organizations, acting as an advisory body to UN-Habitat's Executive Director, supported by the WUC Secretariat, based in UN-Habitat's Division of External Relations.

26. The WUC has played an essential role in the mobilisation of urban stakeholders towards Habitat III. At its 24th session in April 2013, UN-Habitat's Governing Council requested the Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference to strengthen the WUC and support national urban campaigns[68]. In particular, the Governing Council called upon the Secretary-General to continue engaging all Habitat Agenda partners and new partners in the WUC in order to identify and collect good practices that could contribute to the New Urban Agenda and to support national urban campaigns and their communication and outreach activities so as to contribute to national preparations for Habitat III. Policy dialogue, advocacy and consensus building on urbanization issues have been the key strengths of the WUC, best illustrated by 'The City We Need' process launched in March 2014, which is meant to build a global manifesto in order to provide compelling messages and recommendations towards the Habitat III Conference and the New Urban Agenda. During 2015-16, a total of 27 Urban Thinkers Campuses[69] were organized by WUC Partners and coordinated by UN-Habitat in order to contribute to the content of 'The City We Need', a key outcome document to be finalized and shared by the WUC through various channels and media before the end of March 2016.

27. In April 2015, WUC partners launched a special initiative, the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), conceived as a global deliberative devise for non-governmental partners to negotiate a global 'partners' position towards the Habitat III Conference. The GAP is composed of fourteen Constituent Groups: Local and sub-national authorities, Research and Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Grassroots organizations, Women, Parliamentarians, Children and Youth, Business and Industries, Foundations and Philanthropies, Professionals, Trade Unions and Workers, Farmers, Indigenous people, and Media. Proposed by an array of partners united by the WUC, the GAP represents an innovative process, building on the legacy of the Habitat II Conference. In December 2015, Member States expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General of Habitat III for "... his support for the work of the General Assembly of Partners for Habitat III, as a special initiative of the World Urban Campaign, in supporting and improving stakeholders' engagement in and contributions to the preparatory process for Habitat III and the Conference itself"[70].

Figure 3: Origin and evolution of the World Urban Campaign


1996 (Istanbul): Habitat II Conference
1999: UN-Habitat launches Global Campaigns for Secure Tenure and Good Urban Governance to engage partners
2009: Member States call for a single global campaign on sustainable urbanization (GC21)
2010: World Urban Campaign (WUC) launched at World Urban Forum 5 (Rio de Janeiro)
2014: WUC partners propose a General Assembly of Partners to contribute to the Habitat III Conference
2015: Sust Devt Goal 11 on cities and human settlements approved by GA
2016 (Quito): Habitat III Conference
Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

28. At the national level, the WUC is meant to be operational through national urban campaigns. National campaigns have been initiated and launched (in India, Iran, Mexico, Egypt and Saudi Arabia), and are meant to mobilize stakeholders on urbanization issues towards the preparation of the Habitat III Conference and beyond, on the implementation of national urban strategies derived from the New Urban Agenda. Beyond the Conference, national campaigns can potentially become implementation platforms on issue-based initiatives and can be considered instrumental in the implementation of SDG Goal 11 on cities and human settlements.

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[68] Resolution 24/14 on 'Inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development' (Habitat III).

[69] Urban Thinkers Campuses have engaged more than 4,000 participants from 1,200 organizations from 80 countries.

[70] GA Seventieth session (15 Dec 2015) — Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) — Report of the Second Committee.

29. Given its history and impact so far, the WUC constitutes a sound basis for a broader multi-stakeholders partnership for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets related to urbanization. In particular, the WUC may be considered as the host platform for UN agencies to interact with non-State actors through policy dialogue and joint advocacy in order to define and launch issue-based initiatives and concrete alliances. For the current group of WUC partners, the introduction of UN entities would bring a new legitimacy to the platform, conferring a higher level of credibility as a global hub on urbanization.

30. For UN entities, the use of the WUC as a host platform presents several advantages:

(i) An extensive outreach of committed stakeholders and their networks engaged on urbanization issues at the global and national level;

(ii) An organized platform with its own brand and identity (website, newsletter, social medias and outreach tools) to articulate joint advocacy activities, campaigns and initiatives;

(iii) A total of 136 entities and networks organized in a structured partnership around a Steering and a Standing[71] Committee of Lead partners, its Associate partners, Members and Sponsors managed by a Secretariat;

(iv) The basis for country level issue-based initiatives using national urban campaign processes;

(v) A lot of experience in consultative processes, such as the Urban Thinkers Campuses, through which UN entities could join hands to promote and define issue-based initiatives with other stakeholders.

31. For UN entities to ensure a relevant, concrete and catalytic role in the WUC, they would need to define their status in the current governance of the campaign. A UN WUC Steering Group could be established to define the policies, actions and initiatives of UN entities jointly. The UN WUC Steering Group could be represented through a seat in the WUC Standing Committee. However, UN entities joining the WUC would join as Lead Partners of the WUC Steering Committee where they would have a distinct role (for examples, UNICEF as Lead UN Partner on children friendly cities issues, ILO as Lead UN Partner on decent work in cities, and ITU as Lead UN Partner on the use of information and communication technologies in cities).

32. On the WUC road map towards Habitat III, the UN WUC Steering Group could be established and launched at the third session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee in order to allow interaction before the Conference, in particular through an exchange on the respective papers on 'Urbanization and Sustainable Development: An Input to a New Urban Agenda' prepared by the HLCP and 'The Future We Want — The City We Need 2.0' drafted by the WUC partners.

VIII – Conclusion

33. Urbanization is vital for delivering sustainable development, not only because the urban areas of the world are expected to absorb almost all future population growth, but because they have the potential to concentrate economic activities and influence social change. They also have the ability to reduce ecological footprints (by densification), connect to rural and natural environments and create system-based solutions.[72] The New Urban Agenda should respond to the differentiated needs, challenges and opportunities of cities in developed and developing countries. It should contribute to 'fixing' the urban space in its form, structure and functionality so as to positively influence social change in various development domains.[73]

34. As this paper has shown, urbanization has the potential to help the world to overcome some of its major challenges, including poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, violent conflict, poor health and climate

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[71] The WUC Steering Committee is composed of 42 Lead Partners having MOUs with UN-Habitat from which 9 Partners compose the Standing Committee. The Steering Committee elects its Chair and co-Chair every two years during the World Urban Forum.

[72] ESDN, "*Mapping Urban Sustainability in Europe and Beyond*", case Study 15, 2014.

[73] UN-Habitat, "The Spatial Fix", Think Piece for Habitat III, 2013.

change. However, uncoordinated interventions (by different actors) that are not based on a broadly shared vision and guiding principles can inadvertently contribute to forms of urbanization that are not sustainable, such as: the unnecessary spatial expansion of cities, the development of communities at densities that are too low, a mismatch of infrastructure investment and productive activities, allocation of resources and investments that may contribute to the generation of further inequalities, and the entrenchment of conflict-inherited urban governance systems that aggravate societal divides rather than facilitate reconciliation and state-building. Thus, the New Urban Agenda should provide guiding principles for promoting an overall spatial framework for sustainable urban development that addresses a number of essential physical and environmental aspects, such as: designing compact cities, protecting public spaces and the commons and making them safer, enhancing street connectivity, and encouraging well-designed urban layouts, favouring social diversity and inclusiveness as well as mixed land-uses. The New Urban Agenda should also include the guiding principles for promoting sustainable social and economic development within urban centres as outlined above.

35. The New Urban Agenda should bring about sustainable urban development, which is essential for national sustainable development, as its expected outcomes extend well beyond urban areas. From an economic perspective, the New Urban Agenda should support more efficient economic and industrial growth through better allocation of land and other resources, as well as through greater connectivity, economic diversification and strategies for creating employment and improving working conditions for all. From a social perspective, the New Urban Agenda should put urban dwellers at the centre of urban development. It should promote shared prosperity with equitable access to the benefits of urbanization, underpinned by a rights-based approach, with concomitant protective laws and institutions. This requires active protection and promotion of the human rights of all urban inhabitants, which in turn will generate stability and support to the authorities. This also includes socio-economic safety nets that guarantee equal access to basic urban services, as well as practical actions designed to add value: e.g. employment-generation through public services, combating corruption and child labour as well as support to youth in risky sectors. From an environmental perspective, the agenda should protect natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity at local and global levels, and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as building of resilience, allowing present and future generations to live in sustainable cities. Cities that are environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, free from all forms of discrimination and violence-free, economically productive and resilient can genuinely contribute to national development, prosperity, gender equality and sustainability.

36. This paper has proposed ten levers of transformative change that can help countries to maximise the contribution of urbanization to economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development. The first five levers deal with effective urban planning, governance, including legislation, and municipal finance systems, as well as the urban economy. Together, they constitute strategic conditions for sustainable urban development. The remaining five levers address the needs of urban households (the deliverables of successful urbanization), gender equality and women's empowerment as well as sustainable use of resources at the city level, all of which are critical to transformative change and sustainable development.

37. Finally, in addition to being a UN system input to the preparatory process for Habitat III and its expected outcome document, a New Urban Agenda, this paper could be the basis of a UN system-wide approach to assisting countries and municipal authorities in implementing Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and other relevant goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It could also be the basis of a framework for cooperation among UN system organizations, especially at the local and national levels, on sustainable urbanization issues. In this way, it could facilitate the systematic inclusion of urbanization in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. In addition, it could provide a framework for UN system organizations to showcase their work on urban issues in a way that demonstrates UN policy coherence on sustainable urbanization, which is likely to increase the interest in and support to urban development among international development partners, especially at the country level. Further to this, a multi-stakeholder partnership for the New Urban Agenda, based on a revamped World Urban Campaign, is proposed. For this to work, the vision, guiding principles and levers of transformative change proposed in this paper should be in the consciousness of as many UN system Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies as possible and be reflected in their work programmes, and it is hoped that they will be integrated into the outcome document of Habitat III.

Annex IV

UN System Chief Executives Board — Joint Statement to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

The opportunity of urbanization

1. Throughout history, urbanization has been a powerful force for human progress, cultural, scientific and technological innovation, and economic and social development. As we look ahead, urbanization is equally likely to be central to the great changes that humanity will undergo this century: changes in our climate and physical environment, changes in the physical location and demographic makeup of the human family, and changes in our societies and economies. Urbanization is, in short, at the heart of the sustainable development challenges confronting us — and offers uniquely powerful opportunities for rising to these challenges. We, Chief Executives of the United Nations system, stand ready to assist Member States in seizing this historic opportunity.

2. The Rio+20 Outcome document recognized that well-planned and developed cities are central to sustainable development. In Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States committed to "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable." To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States will need to formulate a New Urban Agenda that is both universal and suited to different contexts, that both fosters innovation and creativity and simultaneously leaves no one behind.

3. Urbanization is a force which, if effectively steered and deployed, offers unique opportunities for sustainable growth, productive employment and greater wellbeing. Cities today account for 70 per cent of global GDP. Well-planned, inclusive, safe and resilient cities and human settlements can assist us to address poverty, inequality, poor health, environmental degradation, climate change, disaster risk, fragility and conflict, and to protect human rights.

The challenges of urbanization

4. While urbanization offers unique opportunities, we recognize that it also poses many challenges, including environmental and socio-economic ones. Cities currently contribute between 37 and 49 per cent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions. Urban lifestyles along with demographic density and human interaction practices impact disease patterns and air pollution in novel ways. The socio-economic changes inherent in urbanization can also lead to inequality, marginalization and discrimination. We acknowledge that levels of human insecurity and ill health as well as gaps in education and income in cities are increasing; that hunger and malnutrition continue to exist in many cities; and that violence and discrimination, particularly against women and girls, continue. We also reaffirm the importance of ensuring the inclusion and participation of older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and minorities. We call attention to the growth of slums and the growth in the number of homeless people. We also recognize the increasing urban impact of displacement ad marginalization; increasing levels of crime and violent conflict in some cities; and that corruption is a recurring feature of urban development. Cities are also especially vulnerable to the effects of disasters and other shocks.

5. All of these challenges underscore the need to strengthen urban planning and management, and disaster risk reduction efforts, and resilience building to ensure the cities of the future are safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable, and that urban communities are ready to cope with urban emergencies.

Our commitment

6. As this historic opportunity of rapid urbanization unfolds in the years ahead, we commit ourselves to working with Member States to implement the New Urban Agenda emerging from the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) within the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. To this end, the UN system has adopted ten guiding principles and ten key levers of transformative change towards sustainable urbanization. Now, we commit, through our organizations' programming and through engagement with our governing bodies, to use our organizations' resources and expertise to promote:

a A new vision of urbanization that is **universal and adaptable** to different national circumstances and that is based on the key urbanization opportunities and challenges shared by all countries. We look forward to assisting Member States to ensure universal access to quality health, education and nutrition services, and to address the basic needs, such as water and sanitation, and protect the human rights of the hundreds of millions of urban dwellers currently living in poverty;

b. An **integrated and risk-informed approach** to managing urbanization, simultaneously addressing the environmental, social and economic objectives of sustainability, including rural-urban linkages and the concerns of different levels of government, including local governments;

c. Mechanisms and procedures of urbanization that **respect, protect and promote human rights** and social justice. We will help Member States put in place transparent and accountable policies, laws, institutions and finance systems for achieving sustainable urban development and inclusive economic growth, as well as increasing synergies with the provision of basic services;

d. Efforts to bring **equality and non-discrimination**, including gender equality, to the centre of urban development. We will work with Member States to strengthen inclusive urban economic activity, create equitable employment opportunities and decent work as well as improve existing working conditions for all;

e. The **empowerment of civil society and other stakeholders**, meaningful participation and consultation in decision-making processes, expanded democratic participation and reinforced multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration which would also contribute to enhanced service delivery;

f. The strengthening of **spatial planning** and urban design, transparent and accountable systems of governance and municipal finance as well as policies and strategies that facilitate **economic growth**, structural economic transformation, and job creation, both in urban areas and along the rural-urban continuum, by working with national and local governments;

g. **Green cities and environmental sustainability**, which involves establishing a critical connection between science, technology, environment, industry, economic growth, resource use, urban planning and governance. We commit ourselves to promoting knowledge-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures at the city level; strategies and actions for reducing the vulnerability of cities to disasters and enhancing their resilience; integrated approaches to land use, urban planning , use of information and communication technologies, and infrastructure development; and strategies for developing low-carbon, resource-efficient and smart cities;

h. Efficient use of resources based on a sound understanding of the interactions of natural and human systems ('**urban metabolism**'), and the specific challenges of promoting sustainable public health in urban contexts, including addressing non-communicable diseases, mental health, traffic accidents, and ensuring universal health coverage;

i. Solutions that work to reduce the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of populations in **cities and human settlements** most at risk to multiple and interlocking natural shocks and human-made crises;

j. An **innovation-based approach** to urbanization that promotes connected cities, facilitates learning and the sharing of knowledge, which entails the creation of supportive learning, science, technology and innovation policies as well as development of capacities; and

k. A global **data revolution** for effective, results-based implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda at the local, national, regional and global levels through sharing of data and information.

l. Urbanization which is **people-centered** and leverages on governance systems, policies and management in a way that actively supports human well-being and human development.

Annex V

UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development

Cover Note

1. At its 31st Session, the UN High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) approved the draft revised UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, for endorsement by the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) at its first regular session of 2016. HLCP at the same session requested the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to prepare a cover note summarizing key substantive points from the discussion, to accompany the Plan.

Summary of key substantive points

2. The revised UN Plan of Action should provide the principles, priority commitments, practical guidance and targets for the UN system to reduce the loss of disasters and support countries and communities in implementing the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.

3. The revised UN Plan of Action needs to contribute to the integrated support provided by the UN to countries to address risk and build resilience in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. The revised UN Plan of Action needs to align with other UN system-wide strategies. Climate change and urban issues were identified as areas where coherent and integrated policy and common operational approaches should be ensured. Conflict prevention was referred to as a more challenging yet important topic for alignment.

5. The revised UN Plan of Action needs to reflect the comparative advantage of the UN, in relation to its work with vulnerable, marginalized, discriminated and impoverished groups, as well as its gender, disability and age-sensitive programming.

6. The revised UN Plan of Action needs to recognise that disasters affect women and girls disproportionately and that gender-based discrimination remains a widespread driver of inequality. Accordingly it will promote gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction and resilience policies, programming and investments.

7. The revised UN Plan of Action should recognize that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will rely on measures to manage a broad spectrum of risk in close partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders.

8. The work of the UN system in the context of implementation of the revised Plan will continue to cover the risk to disasters caused by natural hazards (geophysical, meteorological, hydrological and climatological) including climate extreme events, both slow and sudden onset, as well as strengthen activities related to other hazards, including technological and biological. The ability to assess and manage risk due to the interaction between hazards, their cascading effects, and links to the risk of conflict and cyber-risk will be required.

9. The compilation of risk data was identified as an area of potential convergence and pooling of efforts by the UN in the implementation of the revised UN Plan of Action. Risk data will need to inform UN country programmes, preparedness efforts for response and recovery and early warning systems.

10. The relevance and applicability of risk data require disaggregation along key normative agendas of the UN. Risk data will also need to reflect risk of displacement, risk of different vulnerable groups and development sector-specific risk projections.

11. The following milestones were identified to implement the UN Plan of Action, further to its endorsement by CEB:

- Disseminate and promote the revised UN Plan of Action widely;
- Engage the Chair of UNDG to bring the revised UN Plan of Action to the attention of the UNDG, to include in their relevant work streams and to circulate to Regional UNDGs and RCs for operationalization including capacity and resource considerations;
- Develop the Plan as an on-line tool to address the information requirements of UN country teams and offices for monitoring progress, identifying good practices and the support services available across the UN system;
- Finalize the Results Based Analytical Framework for measuring the integration of disaster risk reduction in UN policies and operations as an integral part of the UN Plan of Action;
- Report on progress following the proposed two-tiered approach. Results against a limited number of focused indicators will be reported on annually and will feed into the UN Secretary-General's Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) Report and relevant reporting requirements of the UNDG. Biennial reports on the results-based management framework will be produced for the sessions of the biennium Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and broader reporting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and
- Convene the ASG/Deputy-level Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience to: (1) oversee strategic and policy aspects on the operationalization of the UN Plan of Action; (2) review progress and address gaps and issues related to the implementation of the UN Plan of Action and related policies and programmes; and (3) ensure linkages and coherence with policy and operational processes related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

12. The revised UN Plan of Action and, in particular, the joint efforts by the UN to implement it need to reflect the appropriate level of UN system ambition. The level of ambition of the UN needs to match to the scale of socio-economic losses to disasters, the universality of the agenda and the priority given to the need to reduce the risk of disasters by countries.

Introduction

The Secretary General (SG) proclaimed that "All investments in sustainable development should be risk-informed"[74]. The SG's comment reflects the enormous toll disasters are taking on development prospects (conservatively estimated at US$314 billion per year in the built environment alone[75]). Since 2005, more than 1.5 billion people have been affected by disasters in various ways, with women, children, youth and other vulnerable populations disproportionately affected[76]. If additional losses were accounted for, due to climate change, the estimates would be higher.

Without a radical change of course to ensure that the costs — both economically and in terms of human lives — are addressed through preventative measures, disasters will significantly set back development gains in the affected countries and hamper the prospect of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 builds on achievements and elements established under its predecessor agreement, the *Hyogo Framework for Action: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities 2005-2015*, and introduces a number of important innovations, including a stronger emphasis on disaster risk management, as opposed to disaster management. The Sendai Framework underscores that disaster risk reduction is essential to achieve sustainable development.

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[74] UN Secretary-General's Report *One Humanity, Shared Responsibility* (UN, 2016).

[75] Global Assessment Report (UNISDR, 2015). These expected annual losses account for earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical cyclones (wind and storm surge) and riverine floods. It does not include other natural hazards that also can generate important losses.

[76] Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

This is echoed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, ten of the seventeen SDGs have targets related to disaster risk, firmly establishing the role of disaster risk reduction in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Furthermore, in the Paris Agreement, adopted at the 21st Conference of Parties to UNFCCC in 2015, Member States committed themselves to holding the global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C, with the aim to "significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change".

Disaster risk reduction, as an integrating element within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, represents such a change of course. Integrating disaster risk reduction across UN system efforts in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a practical and tangible bridge between the development and humanitarian communities, as well as an important rallying point for key stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, who are highly motivated and essential participants in reducing disaster and climate risk globally, regionally, nationally, and locally.

The Sendai Framework specifically calls upon the UN system to support its implementation in a coordinated manner, bringing together coherently the efforts of UN entities pursued within their respective mandates. This reflects the broader expectation of Member States for coherent and coordinated support that maximizes synergies, harnesses the potential of partnerships, and optimizes the efficient use of financial and other resources across the UN system.

Strengthening UN System Coherence and Effectiveness in Disaster Risk Reduction

Since 2013, UN system support in disaster risk reduction has been guided by the first UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. It has been largely based on the cumulative efforts of the United Nations to support the *Hyogo Framework for Action*. Its commitments and actions are focused on quality assistance to countries; ensuring disaster risk reduction is a priority for the UN system; and to ensure disaster risk reduction is central to post-2015 development agreements and targets.

The reviews of progress[77], show significant advancement by the UN on the implementation of some of these commitments, for example, the prioritization of disaster risk reduction by UN organizations, while showing slower progress in advancing disaster risk reduction in a consistent and integrated manner in UN country programmes.

The *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the *Paris Agreement on Climate Change*, as well as the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*, together with relevant international agreements — such as the *International Health Regulations (2005)* — each address disaster risk and, taken together, they represent an opportunity to provide a more coherent and integrated international frame for managing risk within sustainable development.

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[77] Past reports and reviews on UN system work on disaster risk reduction include:
- Three *Disaster Risk Reduction in the UN* publications (UNISDR 2009, 2011, 2013)
- *In-depth study on the role of the United Nations contribution to the implementation of the HFA* (von Oelreich, Mid-term Review of the HFA, 2011)
- Initial review of the status of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the UN (HLCP, 2012)
- *Review of the Status of Integration of DRR into CCA/UNDAFs* since the issuance of the UNDG Guidance in 2009 (UNDOCO, UNISDR, UNDP 2013)
- Compilation of twelve UN agencies and World Bank indicators to measure disaster risk and resilience in their respective result based management system (2013).

This revised plan, entitled: "*UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development*", has been prepared in light of the new international policy and operational context, in particular, to ensure coherence with respect to climate change risk and the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to address the challenges identified in the reviews of progress[78].

The revision was also made necessary to align with the principles that are driving the broader UN response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the need to effectively support its transformative, universal, indivisible and integrated nature and its pledge of 'leaving no one behind', in the UN's policy and operational work.

The revised Plan provides for a stronger alignment of the UN's work in disaster risk reduction with other UN system-wide approaches on related issues. In particular, it provides actions to align with the forthcoming UN system-wide strategic approach to climate change, such as:

- ○ System-wide and joined-up approaches for integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in UN development efforts;
- ○ Coherent approaches in the support by the UN for measuring the loss and damage of disasters and climate change; and,
- ○ Joint monitoring of progress in integrating risk reduction and climate change adaptation in UN operational work.

The revised Plan is the contribution by the UN to ensure the implementation of the Sendai Framework contributes to a risk-informed and integrated approach to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It addresses the need for coherency and mutual re-enforcement of the UN's resilience building efforts And it seeks to more effectively integrate UN operational preparedness and response capacities into national operational and capacity development arrangements.

The revised Plan has added emphasis on country and local level engagement and ensuring the UN system is responsive to the different country needs and contexts in regards to disaster risk reduction.

By aligning to the scope of hazards, as reflected in the Sendai Framework, the revised Plan recognizes that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will rely on measures to manage a broad spectrum of risk with a wide range of stakeholders, and accountability across all sectors.

The work of the UN system in the context of the implementation of the revised Plan, will continue to cover the risk to disasters caused by natural hazards (geophysical, meteorological, hydrological and climatological) including extreme climate events, both slow and sudden onset, as well as strengthen activities related to other hazards, including technological and biological threats. The ability to assess and manage risk due to the interaction between hazards, their cascading effects, and links to the risk of conflict, will be required.

The Plan of Action

In order to achieve the above, the revised Plan outlines three Commitments and 11 expected Results. It has a section on implementing the Plan, including inter-agency coordination arrangements.

The essential aims of each commitment are to: 1) strengthen system-wide coherence in support of the Sendai Framework and other agreements, through a risk-informed and integrated approach; 2) build UN system capacity to deliver coordinated, high-quality support to countries on disaster risk reduction; and, 3) to ensure disaster risk reduction remains a strategic priority for UN organizations.

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[78] The Sendai Framework (paragraph 48c) made a specific to request to initiate this revision.

While the revised Plan has a time horizon of 2030, to align itself with the Sendai Framework and the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it also recognizes the need to accelerate support to countries on key priorities by 2020.

These more immediate results have been identified as the initial requirements necessary to achieve a risk-informed approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Commitment 1: Strengthen system-wide coherence in support of the Sendai Framework and other agreements, through a risk-informed and integrated approach

Several actions and results are proposed to ensure synergies, coherence and mutual reinforcement across the implementation of the Sendai Framework to advance disaster risk reduction.

Given the strong relevance and integration of disaster risk reduction across the Sustainable Development Goals, this will also contribute significantly to UN system efforts in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

These specifically include: supporting countries in developing risk-informed local, national and sectorial plans; and, the promotion of coherent and integrated monitoring and reporting by countries on the progress in reducing the risk of disasters and climate extreme events in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Result 1.1: By 2020, UN initiatives supporting the implementation of relevant SDGs are risk-informed and contribute to reducing disaster and climate risk.

Result 1.2: By 2020, global and regional support to countries, by the UN, to implement and monitor actions required under the Sendai Framework is coherent and aligned with the support provided on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Commitment 2: Build UN system capacity to deliver coordinated, high-quality support to countries on disaster risk reduction

The following Results respond to the considerably higher expectations on the UN of support by countries. They provide the direction for the changes required in the UN's modus operandi, to assist countries in avoiding the creation of risk through risk-informed development planning and to reduce the existing burden of risk in countries built up over many years.

The Results support the agreed authority of UN Resident Coordinators to mobilize and draw on all relevant assets of the system. It supports the implementation of joint UNCT plans and activities that apply the normative work of the UN on the Sendai Framework into operations and policy advice in support of national priorities. They will contribute to the empowerment of UNCT Results Groups and the implementation of the Mutual Accountability Framework to recognize inter-agency work in all agency performance systems.

The Results are proposed to ensure UN country programmes address disaster risk and that UN Resident Coordinators, their offices and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) are effectively supported and resourced. This includes support from the regional level and through sectors including agriculture, education, food and nutrition security, health, environment, migration, tourism and water.

Efforts towards this Commitment will need to be pursued, as appropriate, through the UN Development Group (UNDG) and other mechanisms.

Result 2.1: By 2020, disaster risk and climate information that is gender and age disaggregated, disability-sensitive and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, informs all complete or partial UN Common Country Assessments.

Result 2.2: In countries where disasters pose a risk to development[79], disaster risk reduction is effectively integrated into UN development assistance frameworks and partnerships[80], and UN recovery strategies and programmes.

Result 2.3: By 2020, UN agencies and UNCTs have strengthened their early warning and preparedness capacity to effectively support nations' and communities' emergency preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Result 2.4: By 2020, UN Resident Coordinators, their offices and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) have the capacity to effectively support countries implementing a risk-informed development agenda, including the ability to draw on the expertise available, including from UN non-resident agencies and UN Regional Commissions.

Result 2.5: By 2020, the UN has an enhanced system-wide capacity to assist countries in achieving minimum requirements to implement the Sendai Framework within and across sectors. The minimum requirements are:

- Review current status of the risk and losses, strengths, weakness and gaps in the existing strategies in the country for disaster risk reduction across sectors;
- Develop or update national disaster loss databases, disaggregated by gender and age, including through cooperation with national statistical offices;
- Advocate for the availability of risk information and the development of disaster risk assessments based on common, open, accessible and regularly updated data on natural, technological and biological hazards, exposure, the different components of vulnerability and capacity across sectors; and,
- Advocate for the development and/or revision of the national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, as called for by the Sendai Framework.

Result 2.6: By 2020, the level of integrations of disaster risk reduction in UN operational development work is regularly monitored through Regional UNDG's Quality Support and Advice (QSA), Peer Support Group (PSG) mechanisms and, at the country level, through the annual One UN Country Results Reports and UNDAF end-of-cycle evaluations.

Commitment 3: Disaster risk reduction remains a strategic priority for UN organizations

Currently, 28 UN organizations have disaster risk reduction programmes. Several of the UN organizations that identify disaster risk reduction as a priority have corporate disaster risk reduction and resilience policies. However, more, can be done to integrate disaster risk reduction into strategic planning frameworks of UN system organizations, in particular, in key development sectors. UN organizations should aim to elevate disaster risk reduction as a strategic priority for the institution.

Some UN organizations have employed an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in their strategies, programmes and projects. This integration is encouraged.

Result 3.1: By 2020, UN organizations have policies and strategies in place that prioritize disaster risk reduction and the resources to increase the level of commitment to disaster risk reduction for resilience to help implement the Sendai Framework.

Result 3.2: By 2020, UN organizations regularly monitor and report progress in integrating disaster risk reduction as part of their strategic plans, programmes, and results frameworks.

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[79] As identified in UN Common Country Assessments and other regional and country analytical tools.

[80] In line with UNDG guidance such as the Standard Operational Procedures for Delivering As One Countries.

Result 3.3: By 2020, UN system organizations achieved a coherent engagement of their respective stakeholders to support the implementation and monitoring in their sector of the Sendai Framework towards a risk-informed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Implementing the Plan of Action

The "*UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development*" has three components for implementation.

1. Coordination and Strategy

While the responsibility for implementing the Plan of Action rests with different parts of the UN system, in order to ensure coherent system-wide actions on disaster risk reduction, cooperation, coordination, and mutual reinforcement across the UN system are of key importance, including at the global/strategic, regional, and country/operational levels.

The Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG) will play a lead role in facilitating and promoting such coordination. Accordingly, the SRSG will convene, at least once a year, an ASG/Deputy-level Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience. The senior leadership will: 1) oversee strategic and policy aspects on the operationalization of the UN Plan of Action; 2) review progress, agree on annual priorities and address gaps and issues related to the implementation of the UN Plan of Action; and, 3) ensure linkages and coherence with process related to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and UN Development System (UNDS).

At the technical level, the UN Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Point Group will support the work of the ASG/Deputy-level Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience and continue promoting the exchange of experience and coherence across the UN.

At the country level, coordination capacity on disaster risk reduction will be assessed and strengthened through support to UN Resident Coordinators and UNCTs to support the implementation and monitoring of the Plan of Action.

Regional coordination will build on existing mechanisms such as regional UNDG groups, regional coordination mechanisms, and UNISDR regional inter-agency support.

2. Monitoring and reporting progress

An evolving Results Based Analytical Framework for the UN Plan of Action will be developed and kept updated on-line, as a basis to determine and agree on actions required under the three Commitments outlined earlier.

The Analytical Framework will identified sources of information and responsible UN mechanisms and entities for monitoring progress and accountability. It is an integral part of the UN Plan of Action.

The reporting builds on existing monitoring mechanisms carried out by the UNDG, the UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) on country programming, existing intergovernmental monitoring mechanisms of Regional Commissions, UN agencies' own results based management systems, other existing reporting mechanisms in relation to the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) initiatives on preparedness, as well as monitoring of recovery programmes through relevant inter-agency coordination mechanisms.

The UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/211 requests for the UN to report on progress against the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience annually in the UN Secretary-General's Report to the General Assembly and align these reports with the QCPR Monitoring Framework[81].

The reporting on the UN Plan of Action contributes to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) decision to monitoring progress against the IASC/UNDG/ISDR Common Framework on Preparedness. The reporting will also need to be aligned with the monitoring by countries on progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework and any future goals and targets on climate change adaptation. The reporting builds on and further strengthens existing monitoring and evaluations by UN organizations and inter-agency initiatives, with improved baselines and indicators for monitoring and reporting.

Reporting on progress will follow a two-tiered approach. Results against a limited number of indicators will be reported on annually and feed into the UN Secretary-General's Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, the QCPR Report and relevant reporting requirements of the UNDG.

Biennial reports on the Results Based Analytical Framework will be produced for the sessions of the biennium Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reporting.

3. Communication, advocacy and partnerships

Following endorsement of the UN Plan of Action, Executive Heads of UN organizations, UN Resident Coordinators and UNCTs will be engaged to raise its visibility with countries and partners. Through appropriate channels, such as the UNDG, greater efforts will be made to communicate to UN Resident Coordinators and UNCTs, on support available and efforts made by the broader UN system with regard to the implementation of the UN Plan of Action.

Future events, such as global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, can be optimised to promote the UN Plan of Action as a key commitment of the UN. Indeed, the UN Plan of Action and its commitments, results and actions are a main UN contribution to disaster risk reduction and support to resilience building as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Through the implementation of the UN Plan of Action, examples of bringing about greater coherence and mutual reinforcement across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as best practices of assistance to countries, will be collected and shared.

Progress reports will be regularly communicated to countries and made readily accessible, for instance through open, on-line sources. This will strengthen UN accountability to countries, bilateral partners and the public at large.

Partnership and joint funding approaches will support the implementation of the UN Plan of Action. Joint programmes, joint financing and investment strategies will draw on the capacity of the UN system to put into practice multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework and a risk-informed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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[81] The UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) Monitoring Framework has two related indicators.
- Percentage of new UNDAFs that have effectively integrated disaster and climate risk; and
- Percentage of programme countries that report biennially on progress on disaster risk reduction.

Appendix

Results Based Analytical Framework for the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development

Evolving Draft (as at 23 February 2016) — to be further development and kept updated online

Commitments	Results	Supporting Actions	Outputs Indicators, Benchmarks and Source of Information
Commitment 1: Enhance system-wide coherence through a risk-informed and integrated approach to support disaster risk reduction	1.1: By 2020, all UN programmes supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and more broadly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are risk-informed and contribute to reducing disaster risk.	1.1.1: Use disaster risk analysis and climate information to inform sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, and adaptation plans and programmes.	The detailed information on indicators, baselines, source of data, and responsibility for monitoring will be included once the commitments, results and supporting actions have been agreed and finalized.
		1.1.2: Support the measuring of loss and damages and other statistics related, from disasters and extreme climate events to inform risk-informed programming.	
		1.1.3: Promote joint initiatives that support risk-informed actions and activities in support of the 2030 Agenda.	
	1.2: By 2020, support by the UN resulted in the coherent and risk-informed implementation and monitoring by countries of the actions required under the Sendai Framework through global and regional inter-governmental processes, and mechanisms such as Regional Commissions and sectoral coordination mechanisms.	1.2.1: Agree on and apply a set of shared and/or common indicators, that are sex and age sensitive, on disaster risk reduction by 2017 to measure achievements against the key post-2015 international agreements.	
		1.2.2: Build a coherent and integrated monitoring mechanism and reporting regime for the UN on disaster risk reduction that contributes to the efforts for an effective oversight of progress of a risk-informed 2030 Agenda, related agreements as well as the key gaps in coherency and mutual reinforcement.	
	1.3: By 2020, the UN will promote joint and coordinated initiatives that support risk-informed development actions and activities in an integrated manner across different sustainable development goals.	1.3.1 UN organizations to initiate joint and coordinate initiatives and to share information on the scope, scale and focus to promote coherence and align initiatives as commitment to the UN's system wide-approach and its principles.	

Commitments	**Results**	**Supporting Actions**	**Outputs Indicators, Benchmarks and Source of Information**
Commitment 2: Build UN system capacity to deliver coordinated, high-quality support to countries on disaster risk reduction	2.1: By 2020, disaster risk and climate information that is gender and age disaggregated, disability-sensitive and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, informs all complete or partial UN common country assessments.	2.1.1: Train at least one UNCT or RCO staff in UN country teams initiating an UNDAF process and carrying out a complete or partial Common Country Assessment in the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, including the gender dimensions of disaster risk, into CCA/UNDAFs.	
		2.1.2: All UN countries teams initiating a country assessment will receive a communication, through Regional UNDGs and Regional Coordination Mechanisms to take into consideration information on disaster and climate risk in the country and region and related analytics on the impact of disaster on development such as projected average annual losses.	
	2.2: In countries where disasters pose a risk to development[82], disaster risk reduction is effectively integrated into UN development assistance frameworks and partnerships[83], and UN recovery strategies and programmes.	2.2.1: All UNCTs initiating an UNDAF process will receive a communication, through Regional UNDGs and Regional Coordination Mechanisms, on regional and global system-wide support, guidance and tools on integrating disaster risk reduction and adaptation, applicable to the country context.	
		2.2.2: Document and share among RCOs and UNCTs, good practices in addressing disaster risk reduction in country programming frameworks, with a view to promote replication. 2.2.3: UN entities supporting countries assess post-disaster needs and plan recovery develop or apply existing guidelines and capacity to risk-inform post disaster needs assessments; integrate, gender responsive, building-back-better approaches in their plans and programmes; and review the effectiveness of this approach following recovery operations.	

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[82] As identified in UN Common Country Assessments and other regional and country analytical tools.

[83] In line with UNDG guidance such as the Standard Operational Procedures for Delivering As One Countries.

Commitments	Results	Supporting Actions	Outputs Indicators, Benchmarks and Source of Information
Commitment 2 (cont.):	2.3: By 2020, UN agencies and UNCTs have strengthened their early warning and preparedness capacity, to effectively support nations and communities' emergency preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction efforts.	2.3.1: IASC Emergency Response Preparedness approach effectively implemented.	
		2.3.2. Where appropriate and requested, UN operational preparedness and response capacities are effectively integrated into national operational and capacity development arrangements.	
	2.4: By 2020, UN Resident Coordinators, their offices and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) have the capacity to effectively support countries implement a risk-informed development agenda, including the ability to draw on expertise available from UN non-resident agencies and UN Regional Commissions.	2.4.1: Assess the disaster risk reduction and adaptation capacity, including UN legal and normative frameworks, standards and policy mechanisms, of RCOs and UNCTs in terms of their ability to assist countries achieve a risk-informed 2030 Agenda.	
		2.4.2: Based on these assessments, support the RCOs and UNCTs disaster risk reduction/adaptation functions through tools, training and advisors on Disaster Risk Reduction, as needed.	
	2.5 By 2020, the UN has an enhanced system-wide capacity to assist countries in achieving minimum requirements to implement the Sendai Framework within and across sectors. The minimum requirements are: – Review current status of the risk and losses, strengths, weakness and gaps in the existing strategies in the country for disaster risk reduction across sectors; – Develop or update national disaster loss databases, disaggregated by gender and age, including through cooperation with national statistical offices;	2.5.1: Assist countries regularly review their current status of disaster risk and losses, strengths, weakness and gaps in the existing national system for disaster risk reduction across sectors.	
		2.5.2 Assist countries, establish, update and maintain national disaster loss databases.	
		2.5.3 Assist countries regularly update national risk assessments and risk information.	

Commitments	Results	Supporting Actions	Outputs Indicators, Benchmarks and Source of Information
Commitment 2 (cont.):	– Advocate for the availability of risk information and the development of disaster risk assessments based on common, open, accessible and regularly updated data on natural, technological and biological hazards, exposure, the different components of vulnerability and capacity across sectors; and, Advocate for the development and/or revision of the national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, as called for by the Sendai Framework.		
	2.6: By 2020, the integration of disaster risk reduction in UN operational development work is regularly monitored through Regional UNDG's Quality Support and Advice (QSA), Peer Support Group (PSG) mechanisms and, at the country level, through the annual One UN Country Results Reports and UNDAF end-of-cycle evaluations.	2.6.1: Update standard methodologies and training to systematically review the effectiveness of integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures, and extending to technological and biological risk management, in UNDAFs by Regional Quality Assurance Groups.	
		2.6.2 Regional staff with disaster risk reduction expertise join Quality Assurance Groups (regional UNDG PSG) to advise UNCTs on the integration of DRR in CCA UNDAF.	

Commitments	Results	Supporting Actions	Outputs Indicators, Benchmarks and Source of Information
Commitment 3: Disaster risk reduction remains a strategic priority for UN organizations	3.1: By 2020, UN organizations have policies and strategies in place that prioritize disaster risk reduction and the resources to increase the level of commitment to disaster risk reduction for resilience to help implement the Sendai Framework.	3.1.1: Integrate disaster risk reduction for resilience in institutional policies and strategies of all UN organizations.	
		3.1.2: UN organizations to align their strategies, policies and country level programmes on reducing risk and building resilience, within respective mandates, to the commitments of the Plan of Action.	
		3.1.3 UN organizations promote the inclusion of disaster risk management for resilience into standards, legal instruments, normative frameworks and plans in sectors.	
	3.2: By 2020, UN organizations regularly monitor and report progress in integrating disaster risk reduction as part of their strategic plans, programmes, and results frameworks.	3.2.1: UN organizations produce information on the impact of their programmes.	
		3.2.2: Un organizations identify the scale of resources invested on disaster risk reduction programmes and on co-benefits of programs not nominally address disaster risk reduction.	
	3.3 By 2020, UN system organizations achieved a coherent engagement of their respective stakeholders to support the implementation and monitoring in their sector of the Sendai Framework towards a risk-informed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	3.3.1 UN organizations to promote the priority of disaster risk reduction in their respective sectors through awareness raising and training activities, including in cooperation with universities and research institutions as appropriate.	
		3.3.2 UN organizations with sector responsibilities have: – developed sector specific programmes to support its implementation; – provided guidance and capacity support for assessing damage and loss in the respective sector and monitor progress in Sendai implementation.	

Annex VI

Common Core Principles for a UN System-wide Approach to Climate Action

Executive Summary

1. Following the decision by HLCP at its 30th session, by which the Committee supported the development of a system-wide approach to coordinated climate action in a phased manner, a Task Team under the HLCP Working Group on Climate Change was established to develop "a proposal for the first part of the strategy, focused on system-wide policy and high-level programmatic coherence and coordination". Based on consultation across the system, it was agreed to generate a set of "key principles" to guide and inform the UN system-wide approach to climate action in the post-2015 period.

2. The principles draw on successful examples of previous and current UN system-wide approaches to climate change, as well as identified gaps and opportunities for system-wide action for more effective support to Member States. The principles have been designed to guide a system-wide approach and inform and strengthen the system's collective support to climate change action under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFCCC process, and the implementation of the Paris Agreement at the global, regional and national and subnational level.

Common Core Principles for a UN System-Wide Approach to Climate Change Action

A. **Support and advance inclusive sustainable development for all in line with common UN norms and standards**

B. **Facilitate integrated climate action that maximizes synergies and co-benefits across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

C. **Advance and scale-up ambitious and transformative action on climate change**

D. **Prioritize interagency collaboration and joint action for greater collective impact**

E. **Strengthen UN system responsiveness to Member States' needs on climate change**

F. **Base UN system climate action on the best climate science, data and knowledge**

G. **Build and strengthen partnerships, including with non-state actors**

H. **Ensure UN system-wide accountability on climate action**

Common Core Principles for a UN System-Wide Approach to Climate Change Action

A. **Support and advance inclusive sustainable development for all in line with common UN norms and standards:** A UN system-wide approach to climate change action should be underpinned by the existing norms and standards in which UN system support to Member States is rooted, in alignment with and supportive of the ambition, vision and key guiding approaches laid out in the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes (but is not limited to): pursuing inclusive sustainable development; ensuring climate change support for all, including children, youth, women, indigenous peoples and the poorest and most marginalized; integrating human rights, gender- and age-responsive approaches; and advancing women's empowerment, social justice and equality and a just transition for all.

B. **Facilitate integrated climate action that maximizes synergies and co-benefits across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** A UN system-wide approach to climate change action should support Member States in advancing the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Samoa Pathway, and eventually the agendas expected to emerge, in 2016, from the World Humanitarian Summit and Habitat III, under the overall umbrella of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This should also include links to relevant climate actions under conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, the Rio Conventions and key issues relevant to climate action including energy, food security, water, gender equality, health and air pollution. Specifically, a system-wide approach must foster and capitalize on synergies, opportunities for alignment and co-benefits within and across these frameworks, as well as with other common UN strategies and implementation plans that interface with climate change. The approach should ensure that UN system action on climate change is not solely about protecting development from climate change or reducing greenhouse gas emissions as an end in itself, but also about promoting climate change action that can drive sustainable development.

C. **Advance and scale-up ambitious and transformative action on climate change:** The UN system should send a strong signal in support of efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Such a signal should include outlining pathways to a zero carbon and low emission world; supporting countries in implementing their national climate plans, including by promoting durable, sustainable and inclusive solutions for adaptation; and fostering dialogue and action for greater ambition for climate action in partnership with Member States and non-state actors. UN system-wide policy and high level programmatic coherence and coordination should support the main pillars of climate action: mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, transparency and monitoring, capacity development, facilitating technology transfer and finance.

D. **Prioritize interagency collaboration and joint action for greater collective impact:** A system-wide approach should identify and support action areas where Member States and the UN system can benefit from joint UN system approaches. A system-wide approach should not be intended to encompass all individual activities by agencies relating to their individual mandates or decisions of their governing bodies, nor limit these activities, but instead be focused specifically on areas where joint action leads to improved results. In this way, a system-wide approach seeks to limit duplication and repetition within the system, responding also to recent JIU recommendations for improved collaboration, and encourage strengthened engagement among organizations to develop, assess and evolve approaches to climate action, based on comparative advantages of respective agencies and building on existing mechanisms and good practices.

E. **Strengthen UN system responsiveness to Member States' needs on climate change:** Noting the universality of both the SDGs and Paris Agreement, a system-wide approach should acknowledge that UN system support to Member States on climate change will differ in accordance with national and regional contexts and country needs. This includes recognizing the differing role of UN system support to middle- and high-income countries, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), small islands developing States (SIDS) and fragile states, as well as the need for locally specific climate change knowledge and data. A system-wide approach should facilitate joint UN system action to develop tools and approaches that help Member States to take climate action at global, regional, national and subnational level and be better equipped to implement the Paris Agreement, including through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which will play an important role in spurring climate change action at the national level.

F. **Base UN system climate action on the best climate science, data and knowledge:** The UN system should champion and base its support to Member States on the state-of-the-art in climate-relevant science, data and knowledge- including the knowledge and experiences of populations affected by climate change, and ensuring this data is gender sensitive. Furthermore, the UN should continue and strengthen its support for the global, regional national and subnational production, dissemination and use of this data, science and knowledge.

G. **Build and strengthen partnerships, including with non-state actors:** A system-wide approach should recognize and respond to the growing role of new partners (including the private sector, subnational actors and civil society) in supporting and strengthening UN action on climate change. This would include how the UN system complements and works with climate action, including on financing, under way outside the UN system and mobilizes partners in support of ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda. At the same time the UN system should ensure that UN action is inclusive to all stakeholders, while facilitating action that recognizes the distinct roles and responsibilities between different stakeholders, such as civil society and the private sector. The UN system can also play an important role in providing normative guidance to the private sector on climate action and support efforts on accountability. This principle should notably build on the work undertaken by the Lima Paris Action Agenda partners in catalyzing multi-stakeholder partnerships for climate action.

H. **Ensure UN system-wide accountability on climate action:** A system-wide approach should encourage UN system support and programming that contributes to ambitious emissions reductions and reduces climate risk, and holds the UN system accountable to deliver on this to the member states and populations it will support. This includes ambitious approaches by the UN system at all levels and development and implementation of systematic tools and measures to strengthen accountability by the UN system for its own emissions, sharing climate data on current and future risks, advancing risk informed development, assessing the impact of project outcomes on vulnerability, and assessing the climate impact of implemented UN system programmes. This should encompass approaches for assessing programming that ensures climate-proofing and climate resilience, as called for in the Paris outcome.

Annex VII

UN System Chief Executives Board — Statement of Commitment: Putting the imperative to combat inequalities and discrimination at the forefront of UN efforts to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Development must be more equitable if it is to be sustainable.

Deepening, divisive and destabilising inequalities within and among countries are threatening social progress and economic and political stability, affecting all pillars of the UN's work, including development, human rights and peace and security. As the Secretary-General has warned, ‘if inequalities continue to widen, development may not be sustainable’.[84]

At the United Nations summit held in September 2015, Member States adopted the post 2015 global development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (General Assembly resolution 70/1). The 2030 Agenda is a universal, transformative, and people-centred plan of action, strongly grounded in international human rights law that aims to collectively work towards achieving sustainable development through cooperation and integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development.

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States have recognised that ‘rising inequalities within and among countries’ and ‘enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power’ as well as persistent ‘gender inequality’ are ‘immense challenges’ confronting the world today. In response, and building on the lessons of the MDGs, the new Agenda therefore puts at its heart the commitments to ‘leave no one behind’ and to ‘reach the furthest behind first’. It aims not only to end poverty and hunger, but to ‘combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; and to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls’, to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality in a healthy environment.

Member States have committed in the 2030 Agenda to achieving more inclusive economies and societies where ‘wealth is shared and income inequality addressed’ and where gender equality is achieved and all forms of discrimination are eliminated. So central is the challenge of inequality to the 2030 Agenda that two of its 17 goals are dedicated entirely to this objective, including Goal 5 on ensuring gender equality and Goal 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries — which aims to combat income inequality as well as ‘promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status; ensuring equal opportunity and reducing inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices; by adopting policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieving greater equality, as well as by improving the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and ensuring enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions’.

Indeed, the imperative to promote more equitable development permeates all 17 goals of the new Agenda, including through promoting universal, equitable and inclusive access to health, education, water, services, justice, opportunities and outcomes across many of the targets. This is further underscored by a cross-cutting commitment to the disaggregation of data, which will help to ensure that no one is being left behind. The new Agenda gives special attention to the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized, including women and girls, all children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced people, migrants, minorities, stateless people and all people facing discrimination.

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[84] Opening Remarks of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the informal General Assembly thematic debate on inequality, 8 July 2013.

The whole Agenda is underpinned by a commitment to achieve 'universal respect … for equality and non-discrimination', and to 'respect, protect and promote human rights, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinions, national and social origin, property, birth, disability or other status'. Data is to be disaggregated by 'income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts', aligning with grounds of discrimination prohibited in international law, whilst taking account of the commitment to support developing countries in this regard.

Against this background, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), while recognising the respective mandates of its member organizations:

a. Shares and strongly supports Member States' ambitions for a more equal world, that is respectful of human rights and dignity;

b. Affirms the United Nations system's commitment at the highest level to pursue this vision, putting the imperative to eliminate discrimination and reduce inequalities — within and among countries — at the forefront of UN efforts to support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

c. Reaffirms the United Nation system's commitment under the UN Charter to promote and encourage respect for human rights, including the principle of equality and non-discrimination for all people;

d. Calls on the CEB's three pillars (HLCP, HLCM, and UNDG) and CEB member organizations to put this imperative to combat inequalities and discrimination at the centre of their strategic frameworks, policy guidance and global plans of action, as relevant, in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda over the next 15 years, including to ensure that UN efforts prioritize the needs of those furthest behind first and ensure that no one is left behind;

e. Requests the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) develop a coherent, strategic, whole-of- system approach to implementing this imperative, in the form of a "Shared Framework for Action on Combatting Inequalities and Discrimination", that is operationally oriented and fully grounded in the UN's normative standards, and universally applicable for all SDGs in all countries;

f. Asks the HLCP to reflect on how this approach could be operationalized in all countries and regions, including through the United Nations Development Group (UNDG); and

g. Calls on the HLCP to present the "Shared Framework for Action on Combatting Inequalities and Discrimination" to the CEB at its 2nd regular session of 2016.

Annex VIII

UN System Chief Executives Board — Statement of Commitment

Bringing the UN system together to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding within the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. We, the members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, salute the ambition and the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and particularly the universal nature of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, which apply equally to all societies everywhere, with a vital pledge to leave no one behind.

2. We note the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes the interlinkages between the aims of achieving sustainable development, respecting human rights and the pursuit of peace and stability. The 2030 Agenda states that "there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development." The 2030 Agenda therefore underscores the need for the United Nations system to work collectively to provide coherent support to Member States' efforts to meet the ambitious targets they have set for themselves.

3. At the same time as this far-reaching commitment to achieve sustainable development has been made, we recognize with deep regret the enormous humanitarian crises afflicting the world, the recent spike in the number of displaced peoples, the disturbing increase in armed and violent conflict around the world and the erosion of respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. Many of the poorest countries with the greatest development challenges are those who continue to suffer protracted conflict or relapse. We acknowledge the need to address the drivers of these crises, to focus on preventing violent conflict, crime, and terrorism, on upholding international humanitarian and human rights law and humanitarian principles, and on building and sustaining peace, as the opening words of the United Nations Charter, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," call on us to do.

4. We welcome the reviews of the United Nations' peace and security work — of UN peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture, and progress in implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. Collectively, these reviews put prevention and peacebuilding at the centre of the United Nations' efforts. The importance of the search for political solutions and helping parties to arrive at an inclusive and sustainable political settlement that addresses drivers of conflict, reinforced by concurrent efforts to advance sustainable development and reduce humanitarian need, is also underscored in the peace and security reviews. The peacebuilding review put forth a holistic vision of "sustaining peace" and posited it as a key shared responsibility across the system, focusing on preventing conflict as well as relapse into conflict. At the Secretary-General's request, the capacities across the UN system to support these efforts to sustain peace are being reviewed, and we commit to accelerate this review.

5. We further welcome the Secretary-General's Report for the World Humanitarian Summit *One Humanity: Shared Responsibility*, as we note that the humanitarian impact of shocks will not end until we succeed in achieving long-term, sustainable, equitable and resilient development, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals. The World Humanitarian Summit consultations pointed to a clear need for the UN system to transcend traditional silos and to move towards articulation and achievement of shared outcomes in support of the 2030 Agenda. They also highlighted the close linkages between humanitarian needs and the Sustainable Development Goals, noting, in this regard, the importance of conflict-sensitive humanitarian assistance and leveraging opportunities to foster social cohesion at community level. Equitable and inclusive delivery of critical public services, such as healthcare and education, to the most vulnerable, also makes an important contribution to

conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Reducing humanitarian needs, preventing conflict and peacebuilding, thus, remain core tasks for all.

6. This emphasis on the interconnectedness between prevention, sustaining peace and development is also evident in Security Council Resolutions 2242 (2015) addressing women, peace and security, and 2250 (2015), the first resolution of that body to focus on the role of young men and women in preventing conflict and peacebuilding, as well as in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. The Secretary-General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466) encouraged each UN entity to "*initiate a process, in line with its specific institutional mandate and governance arrangements, for laying ground work and investing in systems to track gender post-conflict financing, and to work toward a goal of ensuring that at least 15 percent of UN-managed funds in support of peacebuilding is dedicated to projects whose principal objective (consistent with existing mandates) is to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality or empower women*." Guided by this, we commit ourselves to accelerate integrated programming that addresses women's specific needs, advances gender equality, empowers women, and genuinely reinforces the gender aspects in all conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives.

7. The 2030 Agenda elevates this interconnectedness further. First, it seeks to address the various factors — such as economic, social, environmental, gender and political inequalities, discrimination, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, lack of jobs, poor natural resource management, climate change, organized crime, terrorism, corruption, and absence of rule of law and weak institutions — that drive or are associated with conflict in many contexts around the world. Second, many Sustainable Development Goals — from ending hunger and ensuring healthy lives, to providing universal primary and secondary education — will simply not be achieved by the target date of 2030 in those settings afflicted by violent conflict, unless they are on the path to sustainable peace. With its plea to reach the "furthest behind first," the 2030 Agenda explicitly also reminds us of the imperative of focusing support on those roughly 100 million affected by complex humanitarian emergencies. In all these ways, we see lasting peace as a key objective of, as well as a vital prerequisite for, the attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

8. Given the universal, comprehensive and interconnected nature of the 2030 Agenda, it is more important than ever to build on the synergies among the actors of the UN system in the areas of peace and security, human rights, humanitarian action and development. One way in which this can be done is supporting Member States' deliberations on the 2030 Agenda through the upcoming 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review. We must work towards shared outcomes and encourage cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences with a view to pursuing coherent and coordinated whole-of-system responses to complex situations. This will be the best and perhaps only way for the UN to help countries to arrive at, maintain, and consolidate the foundations for durable peace and sustainable development.

9. We underscore that we can no longer afford to think and work in silos. We echo the Secretary-General in his report addressing the recommendations of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, where he noted that "*[t]he adoption of the [Sustainable Development Goals], [and the commitment to] ... peaceful and inclusive societies, offers a tremendous opportunity to strengthen collaboration between development and peace and security actors*", and pledged to engage CEB leaders to bring the United Nations system together to strengthen preventive and peacebuilding work.

10. We also echo the language of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, which recognizes "the peacebuilding financing gap" and commits Member States to "*step up ... efforts to assist countries in accessing financing for peacebuilding and development in the post-conflict context*" and recognizes "*the need for aid to be delivered effectively through simplified mechanisms*". This will require us to work together, including with the international financial institutions, to identify appropriate solutions on financing in all settings, in support of our commitment to strengthening collaboration and breaking down silos. A common UN approach to providing coherent and integrated support to Member States at the country level is vital, and, in this regard, the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support initiative, in the context of each UN Country Team's Development Assistance Framework, will be critical, as will maximizing our ability, across the UN organizations,

to engage in common analysis and planning. Pooled funding arrangements also have an important enabling role to play in promoting such integration and alignment.

11. In recognition of the above, we affirm our commitment to:

a. Lead our respective organizations to redouble the efforts to work collaboratively and strategically across the system in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the overarching, comprehensive, and integrated framework for global action on a vast range of critical issues for the next 15 years.

b. Pursue opportunities, at global, regional and country level, to intensify cooperation and collaboration among actors across peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development areas of UN efforts, including international financial institutions and the private sector. This intensified cooperation and collaboration will be pursued with the aim of preventing and addressing the root causes of violent conflicts, promoting human rights and the rule of law, promoting education and a culture for peace, building resilience, and sustaining peace. These efforts should, while recognizing and building on existing mandates, mechanisms and partnerships across the system, and ensuring full respect for humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence, seek opportunities to advance complementarities and reduce duplication within our efforts.

c. Strengthen the capacities of our respective organizations for identifying risks and drivers of conflict, detect early signs of deterioration, and work with partners to develop and implement appropriate early responses.

d. Work towards shared outcomes, in particular at country level, through joint analysis, planning, programming, and monitoring, including by leveraging the power of new technologies, as well as through collaborative efforts to secure predictable and adequate resources for conflict prevention and sustaining peace, by pursuing an integrated system-wide approach across the political, social, economic, environmental, human rights and humanitarian dimensions, while safeguarding the impartiality of humanitarian space.

e. Empower UN leadership and enhance and build UN capacity at the country-level to achieve the shared objectives in a coordinated and coherent manner and to improve ways to connect existing UN expertise when it is needed but lacking on the ground.

f. Promote, in line with the United Nations' commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment, women's meaningful participation as beneficiaries and stakeholders in conflict prevention, humanitarian, recovery and peacebuilding efforts, in recognition of their crucial role in prevention and peacebuilding, and intensify support to this critical area in the spirit of the Secretary-General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding. As part of these efforts and to underscore their importance, we will continue our efforts to improve gender balance, especially at senior management levels, across all our entities.

g. Stand ready to provide effective, coordinated and whole-of-system assistance to Member States in integrating perspectives of conflict prevention and sustaining peace in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, based on a robust multi-dimensional analysis of drivers of conflicts, risks and their dynamics.

h. Stand ready to support Member States' deliberations on the 2030 Agenda at various inter-governmental forums by promoting and contributing our shared perspectives on the need to promote and sustain actions that bring together different parts of the United Nations system beyond the UN development pillar.